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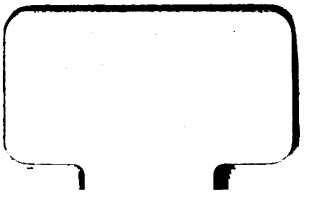

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NARRATIVE

OF THE

MUTINY of the OFFICERS

OF THE

ARMY in BENGAL,

In the Year 1766.

Written by HENRY STRACHEY, Esq. Secretary to Lord CLIVE during his laſt Expedition to India,

And lately given in Evidence to the

SECRET COMMITTEE of the HOUSE of COMMONS.

LONDON,

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NARRATIVE

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A

NARRATIVE, &c.

THE mutinous defection of the officers of the army in Bengal, in the year 1766, is an event ſcarcely to be paralleled in the hiſtory of any age or country. In order to give as diſtinct an account as poſſible of ſo confuſed a ſcene, it may be neceſſary to explain the circumſtance which is alledged to have given riſe to the combination, although the eye of an impartial obſerver on the ſpot could not fail to diſcover, that the licentious diſpoſition of the Company's civil ſervants not only coincided with, but actually infected the military branch.

It is many years ſince the Eaſt India Company, in conſideration of the extraordinary expences and inconveniencies unavoidably incurred during the campaigns in that country, indulged the officers in their ſervice with a certain allowance *per diem*, excluſive of their pay. This allowance originally went, and ſtill goes by the name of "batta," or field expences.

When the Engliſh forces took the field, in conjunction with the nabob Jaffier Ally Cawn, after the battle of Plaſſey, our military expences were, agreeably to treaty, defrayed by his excellency, who likewiſe thought proper to en-

creaſe the emoluments of the officers, by granting them a double allowance, which of courſe obtained the name of "double batta;" and lord Clive, at that time, in order that the gentlemen ſhould not too confidently depend upon the continuance of this new bounty, repreſented to them, that it was merely a temporary indulgence of the nabob, an indulgence not enjoyed by our officers in any other part of India, and could only continue to thoſe in Bengal during his excellency's pleaſure. The expence of this double batta however, though firſt introduced and paid by Jaffier Ally Cawn, was, in proceſs of time, thrown upon the Company; who, unwilling to adopt ſuch an expenſive precedent, notwithſtanding the revenues of ſeveral diſtricts of lands had been aſſigned over by the nabob to the Company for defraying the charges of the army, repeatedly iſſued orders, in the moſt poſitive terms, that it ſhould be aboliſhed. But the ſituation of their military and political affairs in Bengal was ſo frequently critical, and the ſuperior ſervants in the civil branch ſo averſe, perhaps through want of reſolution, to abridge the officers of any emolument, that a remonſtrance from the army never failed to convince the governor and council of the impropriety of ſuch a reduction.—It muſt be remembered, that the accompliſhing this buſineſs was one of the principal points of reformation preſſed upon lord Clive in the year 1764, when, at the requeſt of a general Court of Proprietors of Eaſt India ſtock, he was prevailed upon to accept once more the government of Bengal *. With reſolution and diſintereſtedneſs he ſteadily purſued, from the hour of his arrival at Calcutta,

* See the order in the Appendix, No. 1.

ſuch

ſuch meaſures as ſeemed beſt calculated to effect the great purpoſes of his appointment; and the tranquillity of the country being the neceſſary ground-work of all other permanent regulations, he concluded, as ſoon as poſſible, a general peace throughout the provinces, upon terms both honourable and advantageous to the Company.

The war being ended, it was judged proper to withdraw our forces from the dominions of our new ally, Sujah Dowla, and to quarter them at ſuch places, and in ſuch diviſions, as would not only be moſt conducive to the health of the ſoldiers, but moſt convenient for furniſhing detachments, which from time to time might be required to aſſiſt in the collection of the revenues, or to march upon other accidental ſervices. The whole army was regimented agreeably to the plan propoſed by lord Clive, and approved by the Company, before his lordſhip embarked for India. It was alſo divided into three brigades, each brigade conſiſting of one regiment of European infantry, one company of artillery, ſix battalions of ſeapoys (or black infantry), and one troop of black cavalry, with field officers in proportion.

The firſt brigade was ordered to garriſon Monghyr (300 miles from Calcutta) under the command of lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher, in the abſence of brigadier-general Carnac, who had been called down to the preſidency, to take his ſeat at the ſelect committee, of which the Court of Directors had appointed him a member. The third brigade, commanded by colonel ſir Robert Barker, was cantoned at Bankipore, near Patna, about 100 miles beyond Monghyr; and the ſecond brigade, commanded by colonel Smith, was ſtationed at Allahabad, 200

miles beyond Patna, by the earneſt deſire of the king and Sujah Dowla, in order to ſecure them againſt the invaſion of the Morattoes, until they ſhould have ſufficiently recruited their own army, which the length of the late war had almoſt entirely deſtroyed.

The reſtoration of peace and public tranquillity, together with the eſtabliſhment of a more perfect ſyſtem of military diſcipline and ſubordination than could have been effected before the troops were formed into regiments, afforded a favourable opportunity for carrying into execution the Company's inſtructions relative to the reduction of the batta. Orders were accordingly iſſued by the ſelect committee to the following effect, viz. That on the 1ſt of January, 1766, the double batta ſhould ceaſe, excepting with the ſecond brigade, which, on account of the high price of proviſions at Allahabad, and the expence of procuring the neceſſary European articles at ſo great a diſtance from the preſidency, were to be allowed the double batta in the field, and the old original ſingle batta in cantonments, or in garriſon, until they ſhould be recalled within the provinces. For the ſame reaſons, half ſingle batta was to be continued to the troops at Patna and Monghyr; but the reſt of the army, not engaged in actual ſervice, we mean the detachments at the preſidency, at ſubordinate factories, and other places, were to be put preciſely on a footing with the Company's forces on the coaſt of Choromandel; that is to ſay, they were to have no batta at all.

The officers had been too ſucceſsful in their remonſtrances againſt former orders of the like nature, to omit preferring them upon this occaſion. The poſitive commands of the Company

were, however, urged to them in reply; nor did lord Clive and the ſelect committee flatter them with any hopes that the indulgence of double batta would be prolonged beyond the time limited. The reduction accordingly took place on the firſt day of the new year; the gentlemen of the army, with whatever reluctance, thought proper for the preſent to acquieſce; and all complaint ſeemed to have entirely ſubſided. But this was only an appearance of ſubmiſſion; private meetings and conſultations were held upon the ſubject in each brigade; ſecret committees were formed, under the denomination of free maſons lodges, and means for obtaining redreſs deviſed, which ſeemed to have no other alternative than a mutiny of the whole army, conſiſting of above 20,000 men, and, in conſequence, the extirpation of the Engliſh Company in Bengal. They had no idea, perhaps, that things could come to ſuch extremities; their meaſures were calculated merely for compelling the adminiſtration to a renewal of the batta, by a general reſignation of their commiſſions, without regarding the probable conſequences to themſelves, or to the public; and unanimity, they doubted not, would enſure ſucceſs.

This alarming combination was originally planned in December 1765, or January 1766, at Monghyr, and from thence propoſed to the captains and ſubalterns of the 2d and 3d brigades. The firſt letter that appears to have been written, was to the officers in garriſon at Allahabad, who immediately had a meeting to debate the matter; at this meeting a letter was alſo produced from the third brigade. But before they determined upon an anſwer to either, they wrote to a detachment of their own brigade, encamped at Corah;

who, conſidering themſelves upon actual ſervice, replied, that they could not in honour immediately join in the defection; but that, after the expiration of their preſent ſervice, they would not continue to hold their commiſſions to the prejudice of thoſe gentlemen who ſhould reſign. The officers of the ſame corps at Allahabad, being on duty in a frontier garriſon, concluded they were as much upon actual ſervice as thoſe employed in the field, and therefore concurred with the reſolution of the Corah detachment. Such was the purport of the anſwer ſent to the third brigade, with a requeſt that it might be communicated by them to the firſt. This ſtate of neutrality, however, was not long preſerved: the ſentiments of honour in the ſecond brigade ſoon gave way to the general infatuation, as if the number of actors ſufficiently juſtified the action; and theſe gentlemen, who in the beginning were reſtrained by ſome degree of principle, grew in the end as outrageous, and went even greater lengths than either of the other two brigades.

In each brigade a committee of correſpondence was appointed, with full authority to anſwer all letters that might come from their aſſociates, and to agree to, as well as to propoſe ſuch meaſures as they ſhould think proper. Near two hundred commiſſions of captains and ſubalterns were in a ſhort time collected, and lodged in the hands of the adjutants and quarter-maſters, in order to be delivered to the commanding officers of the reſpective brigades, on the 1ſt of June, which was the day fixed upon for the general reſignation; though, to give a colour of moderation to their proceedings, they determined to make an offer of their ſervices as volunteers till the 15th of the ſame month, by which time they imagined a final

anſwer

anſwer might be obtained from lord Clive, or the ſelect committee, in their favour. All officers upon detached parties, of whom there were a conſiderable number in various and diſtant parts of the country, were written to by their particular friends, or in the name of the brigade to which they belonged, earneſtly preſſing them to enter into the combination, and not to divulge the affair. With regard to thoſe who were preſent doing duty with their reſpective brigades, they bound themſelves by a ſolemn oath to ſecrecy, and kept it ſo ſtrictly, that even the field officers upon the ſpot entertained not the leaſt ſuſpicion of what was going forward. They were likewiſe ſworn to preſerve, even at the hazard of their own lives, the life of any officer whom the rigour of a court martial might condemn to death. But in order, as far as poſſible, to avoid incurring the penalties of mutiny and deſertion, they determined to refuſe their uſual advance of pay for the month of June.

As an expedient to prevent any recantation in this conſpiracy, each officer bound himſelf in a penalty bond of 500 l. not to re-accept his commiſſion, if offered, except upon condition of having the allowance of double batta reſtored *: and, to obviate the misfortune of lord Clive's proving ſo reſolute as to reject their demands, a ſubſcription was raiſed amongſt themſelves, each ſubſcribing in proportion to his rank: beſides which, a conſiderable ſum is ſaid to have been contributed privately by gentlemen in the civil ſervice, in aid of the military cauſe. Theſe monies, together with ſuch forfeitures of the 500 l. penalty abovementioned as might be in-

* See Appendix, No. 2.

curred and levied, were to eſtabliſh a fund for the maintenance of thoſe who ſtood in need of it, in caſe all the commiſſions ſhould be accepted, or of thoſe who might be pointed out as principals, and diſmiſſed the ſervice, even though the army in general ſhould be requeſted to reſume their commiſſions, and the double batta be re-eſtabliſhed upon its former footing. By the ſame means the expences of their voyage to Europe were to be defrayed, and commiſſions of equal rank purchaſed in the king's regiments; to which they never ſuppoſed their mode of relinquiſhing the Company's ſervice would prove the leaſt obſtruction.

The plot was thus ripening, when a circumſtance occurred, which could not but inſpire them with additional hopes of ſucceſs, ſince it ſeemed to prognoſticate an occaſion for the ſervice of at leaſt one entire brigade, about the very time fixed upon for the general reſignation. This circumſtance was the ſudden approach of between fifty and ſixty thouſand Morattoes towards the frontiers of Corah, about one hundred and fifty miles from Allahabad; and whether their intentions were to invade the provinces, or to march to Delhi, was yet unknown; at all events, however, it was judged expedient, that colonel Smith, with the whole of the ſecond brigade (except the European regiment, which it was not thought proper to riſk in the field during the exceſſive heats of April and May, and which therefore was left to do garriſon duty at Allahabad) ſhould take poſt at Serage pore, where he was accordingly ordered to encamp, and obſerve the motions of the ſuſpected army.

Such was the ſituation of affairs in March 1766, when lord Clive and general Carnac ſet out

out from Calcutta, in order to regulate, with Mr. Sykes, (reſident at the nabob's court) the collections of the revenues, at Muxadavad and Patna, for the year enſuing; to receive from Sujah Dowla the balance due of the fifty lacks of rupees (600,000 l.) ſtipulated by treaty in Auguſt 1765; and to hold a congreſs with thoſe princes of the empire who were deſirous of forming alliances to preſerve themſelves and the Company from the incurſions of the Morattoes.

Lord Clive arrived early in April 1766 at Muxadavad, and was now adjuſting the ſtate of the revenues of Bengal, which was to complete his buſineſs at the city, when he received a letter, dated the 19th of that month, from Mr. Verelſt, a gentleman in council at Calcutta, encloſing a remonſtrance from the officers of the third brigade relative to the reduction of the batta; repreſenting in very exaggerated terms the high price of proviſions, neceſſaries, &c.; and requeſting that the late double allowance might be continued. The board thought proper to defer ſending any anſwer to this until they could obtain lord Clive's ſentiments. He, without delay, communicated his opinion to Mr. Verelſt; that the remonſtrance, if it had not been tranſmitted thro' the commanding officer, nor accompanied with a letter to the governor and council, ſhould be ſent to colonel ſir Robert Barker for his information, acquainting him at the ſame time, that the board did not intend to take any other cognizance of a paper ſo irregularly brought before them. But, leſt it might have been regularly tranſmitted, lord Clive propoſed in that caſe, that an anſwer ſhould be ſent, ſimilar to that already given to the like remonſtrances, which had been made when the orders for ſtriking off the batta were

iſſued;

iſſued; with this addition however, that it was obſerved, the paper was ſubſcribed by ſeveral lieutenants of the ſeapoy battalions, who have each an extra allowance of two rupees per diem, which, with their pay and ſingle batta (amounting in the whole to 248 rupees, or £. 30. 15*s.* 2*d* ½, ſterling, per month) could not be deemed an uncomfortable ſubſiſtence. A copy of the remonſtrance, and alſo an extract of lord Clive's letter to Mr. Verelſt, upon the ſubject, are inſerted in the Appendix, No. 3. and No. 4.

Although a table of the price of proviſions and European articles cannot with any preciſion be aſcertained, yet it may not be improper to remark, that the former are much cheaper in Bengal than on the coaſt of Choromandel, where double batta was never known; that the latter are dearer only in proportion to the ſmall difference of diſtance between thoſe two places and Great Britain; and that the expence of tranſporting neceſſaries from Calcutta to any part of Bengal cannot be ſo great as on the coaſt of Choromandel, becauſe the whole country is interſected with navigable rivers. Luxury indeed is boundleſs; and hence ariſe the imaginary wants, and the real diſtreſſes, of officers on the Bengal eſtabliſhment. The diſtribution of pay and allowances, (Appendix No. 5,) will give a juſt idea of the advantages accruing to military gentlemen in the ſervice of the Engliſh Company in that part of India; advantages much greater, it is preſumed, than thoſe of any other forces in any part of the world.

Hitherto no ſuſpicion had ariſen of the intended reſignation, as even this laſt remonſtrance was perfectly ſilent on that head. It was not till the 28th of the ſame month (April) late in the evening, that lord Clive received any advices whatſoever

ſoever of the mutinous reſolution that had been ſeveral months in agitation; and it is to be obſerved, that the firſt information came from lieutenant-colonel Sir Robert Fletcher, who in a letter, dated Monghyr, 25th April, acquainted his lordſhip, that the officers of the firſt brigade ſeemed reſolved on another attempt for the recovery of the batta; that their commiſſions were to be ſent to him at the end of the month, together with a letter, informing him, that they would not draw any pay for the month of May, but would continue to ſerve until the affair ſhould be finally determined for or againſt them. To give a farther inſight into the matter, he encloſed a letter he had the day before received from ſir Robert Barker, together with a copy of his anſwer. Theſe three letters are entered in the Appendix, No. 6, 7, and 8, as alſo lord Clive's anſwer, No. 9.

In the abovementioned letter from ſir Robert Barker to ſir Robert Fletcher, is mentioned a quarrel between two officers at Bankipore; their names were Duff and Davis, the former a captain, the latter an enſign, in the third brigade. At a general court martial, which had been held upon one of theſe gentlemen, in conſequence of the ſetting fire to the quarters, it appeared that the diſpute aroſe from enſign Davis's refuſing to give up his commiſſion to captain Duff, who would have forced it from him. Sir Robert Barker, upon examining into the reaſon of ſo ſtrange a tranſaction, to his great ſurprize became acquainted with the combination, which had been formed in the third brigade, during his abſence upon an expedition to Bettea. This premature diſcovery very much diſconcerted the officers, as the firſt of June had been fixed upon for the general reſignation; and it was not propoſed that their inten-

tions ſhould tranſpire before that day. It now however became neceſſary for them to make ſome alteration in their plan, in order that lord Clive and the ſelect committee ſhould not have time to counteract and defeat it. The firſt and third brigades accordingly reſolved to reſign on the firſt of May; but the ſecond brigade, being at ſo great a diſtance, could not receive information of this change of meaſures early enough to reſign on the ſame day, though the mutinous ſpirit broke out in camp within a week after.

The ſucceeding day's poſt to that which brought the intelligence from ſir Robert Fletcher to lord Clive, brought a letter dated from the camp at Corah, the 15th of April, ſigned Full Batta, to an officer of the ſecond brigade, who had attended his lordſhip from Calcutta, and was then with him at Mutejyl. The contents of this very extraordinary letter * were immediately communicated to lord Clive, who was now fully convinced that the combination was general, though he judged it was not likely that ſo conſiderable a number of thinking men ſhould long continue unanimous in a cauſe, not only highly criminal in itſelf, but which, upon failure of ſucceſs, would involve many of them in inevitable ruin. Some few there might be to whom comfortable fortunes, already acquired in the ſervice, might render the reſignation of their commiſſions a matter of indifference; but many, on the contrary, he knew there were, whoſe circumſtances, whoſe youth, or whoſe extravagance, could not bear that they ſhould voluntarily relinquiſh the only means of preſent ſubſiſtence, and be alſo cut off from every proſpect of obtaining an happy independency. How far

* See Appendix, No. 19.

indeed

indeed the reſolution of men rendered deſperate by diſappointment and impending ruin might be carried, could not eaſily be determined: the troops might follow their example, and a general mutiny enſue: an armed force from the coaſt, or from England, would in that caſe, perhaps, have been the only remedy left. On the contrary, to grant a requeſt, demanded as it were ſword in hand, would have been a condeſcenſion, not only repugnant to the character his lordſhip had hitherto ſupported, and ſubverſive of his authority as governor and commander in chief, but might have been attended with the worſt of evils; for when threats in this inſtance ſhould have been found ſucceſsful, ſubordination and diſcipline would have been openly diſavowed, demands of a more exorbitant and ſerious nature might have followed, the civil government might at length have been totally overthrown by the military, and the very exiſtence of the company in Bengal deſtroyed. Submiſſion therefore on the part of lord Clive would not bear a moment's deliberation. He had a few officers in his ſuite whom he could depend upon; a few others he concluded might be had from Calcutta, and the out-factories; and ſome of the free merchants, it was imagined, would, in caſe of neceſſity, accept of commiſſions. He determined likewiſe to leave the city as ſoon as the important buſineſs he was tranſacting would permit, and to endeavour to reach Monghyr before the 15th of May. By theſe means he was in no doubt of being able to retain command over the ſoldiers, till a corps of officers could arrive from the preſidency of Fort St. George.

Lord Clive, general Carnac, and Mr. Sykes, forming a ſelect committee, met in conſultation on the morning

morning of the 29th, and determining that the demands of the army ought not to be complied with, diſpatched an expreſs * to the council at Calcutta, requeſting they would without delay acquaint the government of Madraſs with the diſpoſition of the officers, and preſs them to iſſue orders to as many captains and ſubalterns as could poſſibly be ſpared from immediate ſervice on the coaſt of Choromandel, and likewiſe to ſuch cadets, and others, as might be thought qualified to bear commiſſions, to hold themſelves in readineſs to embark for Bengal on the ſhorteſt notice. The council were unanimous in the meaſure ſuggeſted by the committee, and on the firſt of May ſent off their diſpatch to fort St. George†. General Caillaud was at this time gone to the northward, to accommodate, either by negociation or force of arms, the diſputes between the nabob of Arcot and the ſubah of the Decan; and as it might be neceſſary for the governor and council at Madraſs to have his opinion, how far the requeſt from Bengal could be complied with, Mr. Verelſt tranſmitted to the general a copy of the laſt mentioned letter, which proved the means of expediting the preparations for the ſupply required.

Lord Clive in the mean time wrote to ‡ colonel Smith, ſir Robert Barker, and ſir Robert Fletcher, upon the ſubject of the aſſociation, encloſing to each a copy of the letter written by the ſelect committee to the council at Calcutta (No. 11.) that they might have have full information of the meaſures intended; at the ſame time giving them authority to make public his ſentiments, if they were likely to have any good effect. From this time to the ſecond

* See Appendix, No. 11. † See Appendix, No. 12.
‡ See Appendix, No. 13.

of

of May, no farther intelligence was received.—The ſilence of colonel Smith, and ſir Robert Barker, gave his lordſhip ſome hopes, as he expreſſed himſelf that day in a letter to Mr. Vereſt, "that the officers had maturely deliberated upon "their ſcheme, and found it not very conveni-"ently practicable;" adding, "I can hardly "think, that ſeeing us ſteady in our reſolution, "they will venture to brave the conſequences. "The firmneſs with which we have hitherto ſup-"ported our civil regulations, muſt leave them "without a proſpect of remiſſneſs in thoſe of the "military."

A few hours, however, brought him a letter from ſir Robert Barker, dated the 27th of April *, which convinced him, that the third brigade was as unanimous as the firſt. In his anſwer †, he directed ſir Robert Barker to find out, if poſſible, the perſon in whoſe hands the commiſſions were depoſited, to put in arreſt thoſe officers whoſe conduct could come under the conſtruction of mutiny, and to detain them priſoners at Bankipore, till a general court martial of field officers could be ſummoned; ſince a trial by their comrades would have been very ineffectual, and it was too evident, that unleſs the ſeverity of martial law were exerted to puniſh the principal inſtigators of this combination, there would ſoon be an end of diſcipline in the army, and of authority in the Eaſt India company over all their ſervants. The like inſtructions were at the ſame time ſent to colonel Smith, and to ſir Robert Fletcher ‡. In the poſtſcript of theſe letters, is mentioned a letter ſigned Firſt Brigade. It was

* See Appendix, No. 14. † See Appendix, No. 15.
‡ See Appendix, No. 16.

addreſſed

addreſſed to captains Fred. Smith, and Thomas Pearſon, the one aid de camp, the other ſecretary to general Carnac; and the contents are as follows:

" Gentlemen,

" We are now to inform you, that all the officers here, and thoſe at Patna and Allahabad, " (except a few, and thoſe pimps to power too) " have reſolved to reſign the ſervice the firſt day " of May next, unleſs the batta is reſtored to " what it was in July and Auguſt 1763; and " requeſt that you will concur with us in refuſing " to ſerve but upon thoſe terms. This is no haſty " ill-conducted ſcheme, but the ſettled reſolution of the THREE BRIGADES, who are, to a " man, reſolved to ſend every officer to everlaſting Coventry, who refuſes to join in a cauſe " ſo juſt and honourable. We therefore beg " that you will, immediately upon receipt of " this, tranſmit your ſentiments to ſome of your " friends here, who may communicate them to " us. We further beg, that you will conſider " maturely on this ſubject before you come to " any reſolution; for depend upon it, we are " determined to go through with it, at the riſque " of life, fortune, friends, and every thing that is " dear and ſacred. The gentlemen at Moradbaug may be able to inform you of material " circumſtances.—Till we have your anſwer, we " are truly and ſincerely

" Monghyr, 27 April 1766. " Your friends The Firſt Brigade."

The gentlemen at Moradbaug, mentioned in this letter, belonged to a conſiderable detachment doing

doing duty at the city. They were all this time deeply concerned in the combination; but lord Clive being upon the ſpot, made them ſenſible of their folly, and prevented them from throwing up their commiſſions.

On the 29th of April, ſir Robert Barker * wrote again to lord Clive, acquainting his lordſhip with his more full conviction of the determination of the officers, and with the meaſures he was purſuing, not only to ſhake it, but to prevent any alarming conſequences, when it ſhould come to an iſſue, altho' hitherto no diſpoſition to mutiny had appeared among the private men of his brigade. This could not fail giving ſatisfaction. But lord Clive was under ſome uneaſineſs on account of the garriſon at Monghyr, where he had reaſon to think the whole ſcheme had been originally planned; and ſir Robert Fletcher's ſilence added much to his anxiety, for it was now the 4th of May, and the only letter he had received from that gentleman upon the ſubject, was dated the 25th of April; he therefore thought proper to repeat his former injunctions, that ſir Robert Fletcher ſhould inform himſelf of the names of the principals, and of as many particulars as poſſible relating to the aſſociation; directing him at the ſame time to take the moſt effectual means of ſecuring the fidelity of the ſubadars, or commanding officers of the black troops, in caſe the European ſoldiers, or the ſeapoys, had betrayed any ſymptoms of diſaffection. However, before theſe inſtructions were diſpatched, a letter arrived from ſir Robert Fletcher, dated the 1ſt of May, encloſing one to him from 42 of his officers, together with a copy of his anſwer, and al-

* See Appendix, No. 17.

ſo a letter to him from ſir Robert Barker, all which may be ſeen in the Appendix, No. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22. The letter from the officers was accompanied by their commiſſions, which they requeſted ſir Robert would keep, till an anſwer ſhould arrive from thoſe who had the power of granting their demands; and in the mean time they aſſured him, that as they reſigned from principle, they reſolved to ſerve without pay of any kind, till the 15th.

This actual reſignation of the officers of the 1ſt brigade no longer permitted lord Clive to doubt, that the other two brigades would with like punctuality comply with the terms of the aſſociation. A ſupply from Fort St. George, and likewiſe the aſſiſtance of the free merchants, became immediately neceſſary. The letter in the Appendix, No. 23, to the gentlemen of council at Calcutta, encloſing the officers addreſs to ſir Robert Fletcher, was therefore diſpatched without delay. The next day (5th May) a letter from ſir Robert Barker, dated 30th April *, informed lord Clive, that on the 29th the officers of his brigade had made him acquainted with their reſolution to reſign their commiſſions on the firſt of May, though they were willing to ſerve without either pay or batta till the 15th, by which time they ſuppoſed lord Clive would reach Patna, or write his anſwer to their demands. Sir Robert Barker, after having aſſembled the officers, repreſented to them, that the crime they were committing was no leſs than mutiny and deſertion; and that he hoped, for their own ſakes, they would reflect upon the conſequences, and relinquiſh a project, which, if perſiſted in, would

* See Appendix, No. 24.

certainly

certainly bring ruin and diſhonour upon themſelves.—Arguments of this kind, from a commanding officer univerſally beloved, could not fail making ſome impreſſion on their minds; but at the cloſe of the conference they declared, "That they were ſolemnly bound and engaged "with the other brigades, to offer their com- "miſſions on the 1ſt of May, and that they "could not be off."

Sir Robert Barker, having been informed that the men at Monghyr had expreſſed their reſolution to mutiny, repeated to lord Clive his appreſion of it, and mentioned alſo an information he had received, that a ſum to the amount of 140,000 rupees, near (£. 16,000 ſterling) was ſubſcribed for the officers by the gentlemen of Calcutta.

Theſe circumſtances it was thought neceſſary to communicate to the council*, not only that they might be apprized of the progreſs of the combination, but that they might exert their endeavours to diſcover thoſe gentlemen in the civil ſervice, who had granted ſuch large encouragement to the mutinous diſpoſition of the army.

Lord Clive then acquainted ſir Robert Fletcher with ſir Robert Barker's doubts concerning the men of the 1ſt brigade†, charging him to act with all poſſible circumſpection, and authorizing him to engage the attachment of the non-commiſſion officers by aſſurances of reward, if he ſhould ſee a neceſſity of putting their behaviour to the teſt; he further directed him to make ſuch neceſſary preparations as could be made without creating ſuſpicion, for detaching the troops in ſmall parties at a moment's warning, and with

* See Appendix, No. 25. † See Appendix, No. 26.

the like caution to collect boats for conveying the officers to Calcutta; ſince he was determined, that if he found them refractory, on his arrival at Monghyr, they ſhould be forced to depart within 24 hours. A letter of the ſame date, and to the ſame purport, was alſo diſpatched to ſir Robert Barker *.

By a letter of the 2d of May, ſir Robert Fletcher acquainted lord Clive, that he was convinced no diſturbance could happen, even if the troops knew the conduct of their officers; but that however, for the ſake of amuſement and a freſh ſubject of converſation, he had marched half the brigade to the diſtance of two miles from the fort, under pretence of reducing ſome ſtrong mud forts at Carrucpoor. In anſwer to this, lord Clive ordered him immediately to ſecure the captains who had been moſt active, and to ſend them down priſoners to Calcutta †.

The ſentiments of the officers of the 3d brigade, who were abſent upon detachments, were not certainly known; but between 50 and 60 of thoſe preſent, in cantonments at Bankipore, kept ſtrictly to their engagement. On the 1ſt of May in the forenoon, ſir Robert Barker received the following laconic epiſtle from his adjutant;

"Sir,

"The encloſed letters were juſt now brought "to me; one of them, directed to you, I ſend "by deſire of the officers of the 3d brigade; the "other, I believe, you will think not improper-"ly added.

"I am, ſir,

"Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

"May 1ſt 1766. F. Robertſon, adjutant."

* See Appendix, No. 27. † See Appendix, No. 28.

The

The letter directed to ſir Robert Barker, which Mr. Robertſon encloſed (and which ſir Robert returned *, with an aſſurance that he would put the ſeverity of military law in execution, if any man ſhould miſbehave) was ſigned, "Officers of the 3d Brigade." It contained a repetition of their grievances, and terms of future ſervice, ſome expreſſions of perſonal regard for the colonel, and a readineſs to act as volunteers, and obey orders, till the 15th of the month, when they expected to be made acquainted with lord Clive's definitive anſwer. The other letter, which Mr. Robertſon mentions to be "not improperly added," was the pacquet of commiſſions, together with his authority for ſending them; which was as follows;

To enſign Robertſon.

"Sir,

"We deſire that you will, before 12 o'clock "to-day, ſend our commiſſions to ſir Robert Bar- "ker, colonel of the 3d brigade, together with "the encloſed letter.

"May 1ſt 1766, "We are
"11 o'clock, Your obedient ſervants,
A. M. Officers of the 3d Brigade."

Sir Robert Barker had before ſuſpected what was now ſufficiently certain, that the adjutant was a principal and active member of the aſſociation. He therefore intimated to him upon the parade, that he ſhould order him down to Calcutta; in conſequence of which intimation, Mr. Robertſon thought fit to write him the following letter;

"Sir,

"I did not well underſtand what laſt you ſpoke "to me on the parade, whether it was, that you

* See Appendix, No. 29.

" meant to ſend me a priſoner to Calcutta, or " that you expected I would go becauſe you de- " ſired it. If the firſt, 'tis well; if the latter, I " muſt acquaint you that I, without having done " any thing unmilitary or improper, reſigned the " ſervice this morning, releaſing myſelf from " military orders. You accepted, examined, but " choſe to return the commiſſions, 'mongſt which " mine was one. If I have done wrong, I muſt " be brought before the civil power, having " freed myſelf from all military reſtrictions.

" To leave this immediately will be to loſe " all that I am worth; ſo that 'twill be neceſſary " to ſend me a priſoner, that I may know where " to apply hereafter for reſtitution.

" I am, Sir,

" Your obedient humble ſervant,

F. Robertſon."

This letter did not intimidate ſir Robert Barker from forcing Mr. Robertſon, and three other ringleaders, to proceed immediately to Calcutta; a meaſure which contributed much to the preſerving good order and diſcipline in his brigade till the 15th of May.

As the affairs of the army were now become very critical, lord Clive determined to leave the buſineſs at the city unfiniſhed, to the management of Mr. Sykes, and to march with all poſſible expedition to Monghyr, which place he propoſed reaching on the 14th at lateſt. On the evening of the 6th he accordingly ſet out from Mutajyl, accompanied by general Carnac, and the few officers belonging to the body-guard and eſcort of ſeapoys. Majors Champion and Polier, and captains Smith, Pearſon, and Martin, who were all the officers that could be collected at ſo ſhort no-

tice, and whoſe attachment to the ſervice, as well as ſteady adherence to diſcipline, might ſecurely be relied on, were ordered forward, to proceed with the utmoſt haſte to the aſſiſtance of ſir Robert Fletcher.

Lord Clive, that night, at Sydokbaug, 12 miles from Mutajyl, received a letter from ſir Robert Fletcher, dated 3d of May *, acquainting him, that "he had uſed every argument in "his power to perſuade the officers to a change "of conduct, but that they had ſeverally told "him, they were determined to abide by what "they had done." By an incloſed letter to his brother, a captain at Madraſs, (open for his lordſhip's peruſal) it appeared, that the gentlemen intended to write to their military friends at Fort Saint George, to prevail upon them to reject all propoſals that might be made for their removal to Bengal. This ſcheme was evidently calculated to bring additional diſtreſs upon the government, and thereby to compel lord Clive into terms of accommodation. But in order to counteract the meditated miſchief, a letter was immediately diſpatched to the council at Calcutta †, requeſting they would, for a time, ſtop all private letters to and from Madraſs, except ſuch as could not be ſuſpected to relate to the combination. And, as a communication of ſentiments, from one part of the army to another, might at this juncture prove extremely dangerous, it was further propoſed, that the like caution ſhould be uſed at the poſt-office at Calcutta.

During the next day's journey, lord Clive had an account from ſir Robert Fletcher, that he had again remonſtrated to no purpoſe with the gentle-

* See Appendix, No. 30. † See Appendix, No. 31.

men of his brigade; that they were rather more inflamed; that they flattered themſelves their letters to Madraſs would have the deſired effect; and that it was now artfully inſinuated, a mutiny of the men was already planned, and would inevitably happen, if the officers ſhould be diſmiſſed. A copy of this letter, together with his lordſhip's anſwer, is entered in the Appendix, No. 32 and 33.—No. 34 is an extract of a letter from lord Clive to ſir Robert Barker, the 8th of May.

The day following, lord Clive learnt from ſir Robert Fletcher *, that he had ſent to Calcutta a captain and a lieutenant †, upon ſuſpicion of their having been the moſt active in forming the combination; but that he was perſuaded every precaution had been uſed to conceal the principals. The gentlemen however of this brigade, as well as of the 3d, ſtill continued to do duty, though their reſolution in the main point was not altered; and by the converſation of the latter, ſir Robert Barker underſtood, that upon his refuſing to accept their commiſſions, they had ſent them by the poſt to Calcutta; nor was he deceived, for on the 2d day's march, lord Clive met an expreſs with a very large pacquet, addreſſed to the governor and council, which upon being opened was found to contain the commiſſions of that brigade, together with a general letter of reſignation, dated the 1ſt of May. Lord Clive detained the commiſſions in his own cuſtody, and forwarded the letter to the board.

During theſe tranſactions, the council at the preſidency had received, and taken into conſi-

* See Appendix, No. 35.

† Note, This gentleman was lately appointed to the rank of factor in the civil ſervice at Bengal.

deration,

deration, the committee's diſpatch of the 4th (Appendix, No. 23.) The aſſociation of the officers being fully confirmed, and thoſe of the firſt brigade having actually tendered their commiſſions, the board unanimouſly reſolved, agreeably to an intimation given them by lord Clive, that a letter ſhould be written to ſir Robert Fletcher, or officer commanding at Monghyr, expreſſing their ſenſe of ſuch an extraordinary and unwarrantable proceeding; authoriſing him to accept of as many commiſſions as were offered, and to order down to Calcutta, within the ſpace of 24 hours, every man who had reſigned the ſervice; ſince no confidence could prudently be placed in the zeal of thoſe who had deſerted their duty in a manner ſo inconſiſtent with the character of officers and gentlemen *. They farther reſolved, that the ſaid letter ſhould be tranſmitted through the hands of lord Clive and general Carnac, in order that it might have ſanction of their names; and that an expreſs ſhould be ſent to the preſidencies of Madraſs and Bombay †; urging the neceſſity of their united efforts to aſſiſt Bengal in this emergency, and requeſting they would, without loſs of time, embark all the officers, cadets, and others, that could poſſibly be ſpared, agreeably to the former letters from that board.

In the mean time, the council, in conſequence of the requeſt of the committee, applied to the free merchants, requiring them to give their aſſiſtance on the preſent defection of officers, till the vacant commiſſions could be filled up. Aſtoniſhing as it may appear, it is however an inconteſtable truth, that out of near one hundred of theſe gentlemen reſident at Calcutta, neither diſ-

* See Appendix, No. 36. † See Appendix, 37.

qualified

qualified by age nor infirmity, two only were found who would accept commiſſions upon this very important occaſion, notwithſtanding they knew the ſervice intended was merely parade duty; that even this would laſt but a few weeks; and that the faith of the governor and council was pledged to allow them the privilege of trade, duty free; and to recommend them to the Court of Directors for a more eſſential reward of their attachment to the Company's welfare *. The trifling excuſes made by ſo conſiderable a number of thoſe gentlemen, amounted at leaſt to an approbation of the conduct of the officers, if it did not confirm the truth of the information, that a ſubſcription was raiſed in Calcutta for the ſupport of the military combination.

On the 10th of May lord Clive and general Carnac received, at Siccaragully, the letter from the council to the officer commanding at Monghyr †. This they immediately ſigned, and diſpatched to ſir Robert Fletcher, with ſome private inſtructions for his conduct ‡. A copy of it was at the ſame time ſent to ſir Robert Barker, that he might intimate to the officers of the 3d brigade, the unanimous reſolution of the board upon the proceedings of thoſe of the 1ſt §.

On the 11th a letter arrived from colonel Smith, dated 29th of April, adviſing, that a conſiderable detachment of the Morattoe army was in motion; that they had advanced down the ſouthern ſhore of the Jumna, oppoſite to the territories of Corah; and that Ballagarow, one of the chiefs, with ſixty thouſand horſe, was arrived at Culpy, where he was collecting a large number of boats. This letter was addreſſed to the ſelect committee, but

* See Appendix, No. 38.
† See Appendix, 36.
‡ See Appendix, 39.
§ See Appendix, 40.

the

the critical ſituation of affairs would admit of no delay in the reply; and the colonel was evidently yet unacquainted with the intended deſertion of his officers. Lord Clive therefore heſitated not to inveſt him with full authority to act, in reſpect to forming alliances with neighbouring princes, in ſuch manner as the emergency of affairs might require ‡: and as the reſignation of his officers, at the time of the enemy's nearer approach, might be attended with the moſt fatal conſequences, his lordſhip impowered the colonel, provided he ſhould judge that the troops were ripe for mutiny, and thereby find himſelf reduced to the utmoſt extremity, but under no other circumſtances whatſoever, to make terms with the malcontents.

This day and the next, lord Clive received farther accounts from ſir Robert Fletcher, expreſſing the higheſt opinion of the fidelity of his troops, inſomuch that, "he would ſtake his life "upon their good behaviour, notwithſtanding "the apprehenſions entertained by ſir Robert "Barker." He obſerved, that the worſt which could happen was a mutiny amongſt the Europeans, who were ſo inconſiderable in number, that he would put every man of them to death by the ſeapoys, before they could get a cartridge from the magazine, or indeed before they could form themſelves under arms, his own quarters being ſo near the barracks, that he could almoſt overhear every thing that paſſed.

Confident as theſe aſſurances were, lord Clive thought it expedient to purſue his journey with the utmoſt expedition, although the heat at this ſeaſon of the year was ſo inſupportable, that

‡ See Appendix, No. 41.

many

many of the men had already died upon the march; but it was neceſſary to reach Monghyr, if poſſible, before the departure of the officers; and he was now within one day's journey of the place, when early in the morning of the 13th, his progreſs was delayed by a ſudden fall of waters from the mountains, which carried away a bridge that had been thrown over a branch of the river he was obliged to paſs; the ſtream of which was now ſo extremely deep and rapid, that it could not be forded, even upon elephants, till late in the evening. A whole day was thus unavoidably loſt †. Repeated advices however from ſir Robert Fletcher flattered his lordſhip, that no diſturbance would ariſe among the troops in garriſon: he hoped indeed that the officers would remain quiet till his arrival; but at all events ſir Robert could not now be much diſtreſſed, as the gentlemen who puſhed forward from Mutajyl were already arrived to his aſſiſtance, and the letter from the governor and council contained ſufficient inſtructions for his conduct.

On the 14th, ſir Robert informed his lordſhip ‡, that he had begun the embarkation of the captains, and had appointed a ſurgeon's aſſiſtant, 2 cadets, and a ſergeant, to act as enſigns, in order to convince the ſubalterns that the brigade would not be entirely deſtitute of officers. Soon after, upon the receipt of lord Clive's letter of the 13th, he invited the gentlemen to do duty a day longer. But ſome of them began now to be very troubleſome; and appeared to intend encamping till the arrival of their aſſociates from the other brigades §.

† See Appendix, No. 42. ‡ See Appendix, No. 43.
§ See Appendix, No. 44.

The

The deſcription of affairs at Monghyr has, to this period, been collected only from ſir Robert Fletcher. It may, however, be not improper to take a view of them from the officers who were detached thither from Mutajyl.

On the arrival of theſe gentlemen at Monghyr, the 12th of May, about 9 o'clock at night, they were ſurpriſed to hear the grenadier's march beating, and then the réveillé. When they came to ſir Robert Fletcher's quarters, they there found half the European regiment aſſembled, and ſinging, and the drums beating.

The next day they ſeverally viſited the officers of their acquaintance, in hopes of prevailing upon them to relinquiſh the diſhonourable project they had ſo raſhly engaged in, or at leaſt to continue doing duty till the arrival of lord Clive and general Carnac.

They repreſented the infamy and the ruin that would attend them, if they ſhould in this manner deſert the ſervice: that a combination to reſign their commiſſions all on the ſame day could be conſidered as no leſs a crime than mutiny: that if the ſoldiers ſhould be tempted to follow their example, the miſchief would not end without bloodſhed, and the murther of many of their countrymen: that lord Clive came firmly reſolved not to yield up the point to them, and would rather ſuffer death than condeſcend to make terms with a ſet of men who were endeavouring to aboliſh all military diſcipline and ſubordination. They farther remonſtrated upon the ingratitude of their behaviour to his lordſhip, who had lately given to the amount of near 70,000 l.†

† A legacy of five lacks of rupees bequeathed to lord Clive by the old nabob Jaffier Ally Cawn, who died three months before his lordſhip's arrival at Bengal.

as

as a fund for the ſupport of all officers and men who ſhould be diſabled, or worn out in the ſervice, and likewiſe for the maintenance of their widows.

In anſwer to theſe arguments the officers declared, that they were ſolemnly bound to quit the brigade, whatever might be the conſequence: that they had imagined unanimity in the meaſure muſt have enſured ſucceſs; but that, could they have ſuppoſed lord Clive ſo inflexible, they would never have formed the combination. That as to his lordſhip's generous donation to the army, they were entirely ignorant of it, ſir Robert Fletcher not having communicated to them a ſyllable of the matter; and that, had they been informed of it, gratitude, as well as ſelf-intereſt, would certainly have prevented their preſent conduct. They then alledged, that ſir Robert himſelf originally ſet this combination on foot, artfully making them the inſtruments of an oppoſition to lord Clive's government: they acknowledged the probability of a mutiny amongſt the ſoldiers; but declared, at the ſame time, that ſhould it happen, they would exert their utmoſt endeavours to quell it. Several of them, particularly captain Goddard, lamented the want of an opportunity to acquaint lord Clive and general Carnac with the part ſir Robert Fletcher had acted, in beginning and promoting this unfortunate affair; but deſired major Champion, and captains Smith and Pearſon, would not fail to report their aſſertions, the truth of which they ſaid they were well able to prove.

On the 13th, major Champion and captain Pearſon were ordered out to the camp at Carrucpoor, two miles from Monghyr fort. The reſt of lord Clive's detachment of officers remained

ed in garriſon, to be ready in caſe of a mutiny of the Europeans, which began now to be apprehended. At eleven o'clock at night, two battalions of ſeapoys were marched, under command of captain Smith, to the exerciſing ground, where they lay upon their arms till morning; when the captain propoſed to ſir Robert Fletcher, that they ſhould return to their own parade, not only as it commanded the principal gates, but as detachments could be more readily made from thence to different parts of the garriſon; and that, in order to obviate any ſuſpicion, it ſhould be given out, that lord Clive being hourly expected, it was neceſſary to keep the ſeapoys in the fort, leſt they ſhould ſtraggle, and not be quickly drawn up on his lordſhip's arrival. This advice was immediately followed.

In the afternoon captain Smith received an order from ſir Robert Fletcher to get the two battalions under arms, and to march with all poſſible expedition to the European barracks, the ſoldiers having mutinied. The captain had neither ſubaltern nor ſergeant to aſſiſt him.—One of the reſigned officers happening at that moment to come on the parade, the captain ordered him to take the command of one of the battalions, but finding that he heſitated to obey, he turned from him, and gave the command of it to a black commandant, taking charge of the other himſelf. As the mutiny was not unexpected, he had previouſly taken a view of the ground near the barracks. Adjoining to theſe is a hill, whereon ſtands the ſaluting battery; which he was apprehenſive the mutineers would endeavour to ſeize. To avoid any ſignal of his approach, he gave orders that the battalions ſhould march in the profoundeſt ſilence. Inſtead of proceeding the common

mon road, round the hill, he got up the back of it, and ſuddenly took poſſeſſion of the battery, by which means he had the full command of all the barracks. The ſoldiers had actually got under arms, intending to follow their officers, and the artillery were preparing to do the ſame; but the appearance of thoſe two battalions of ſeapoys, with fixed bayonets, threw them into ſome confuſion, of which captain Smith took the advantage, and told them he would immediately fire upon them, if they did not retire peaceably to their quarters. Sir Robert Fletcher alſo, who was now arrived, harangued and diſtributed money amongſt the mutineers, and gave likewiſe to each of them two rupees. They aſſured him they had been made to believe that he was to head them, otherwiſe not a man would have thought of turning out; adding, that if that was not the caſe, they would not mind their officers, but live and die with him alone. Whilſt ſir Robert was talking to the men, ſeveral of the officers came and told him, that as they heard the Europeans had mutinied, they were willing to offer him their aſſiſtance. This he refuſed, and ordered them all to quit the garriſon within the ſpace of two hours, under pain of being ſent off with guards. Before ſix o'clock they accordingly departed; three only of the whole brigade were left, two of whom were then confined to their beds. Sir Robert Fletcher's own account of this laſt tranſaction appears in his letter of that night to lord Clive†, in which is the following very extraordinary paragraph:

" Some have been very troubleſome, and particularly thoſe whom I have all along ſuſpected,

† See Appendix, No. 45.

and

"and whoſe confidence I uſed every art to gain "in *January laſt, when I heard that the whole were* "*to form a plan of quitting the brigades without giv-* "*ing any warning. I even went ſo far as to ap-* "*prove of ſome of their ſchemes, that they might do* "*nothing without my knowledge.*" After peruſal of this, it will naturally be recollected, that the earlieſt intelligence given by ſir Robert Fletcher, of the combination of his officers, was in his letter to lord Clive, dated 25th April, ſix days only before the day of reſignation.

In the morning of the 15th of May, lord Clive and general Carnac arrived at Monghyr, where they were immediately informed of all the circumſtances above related. Sir Robert Fletcher the ſame day took an opportunity, in converſation with lord Clive, to repeat the matter of his letter to his lordſhip of the 14th of May, above quoted. But upon this ſubject, lord Clive, for reaſons which will hereafter be mentioned, did not think proper at that time to expreſs any diſſatisfaction.

Orders were iſſued that night for the whole brigade to be drawn out next day, lord Clive intending to review them. Early in the morning of the 16th, he accordingly went to the parade, where the men appeared in very good order, but with very few officers. The European ſoldiers required his firſt attention; he therefore addreſſed himſelf to them in the ſtrongeſt terms: he repreſented to them the heinouſneſs of the crime their officers had committed; explained to them the grounds upon which the diſaffection had ariſen; informed them that the double batta was merely an occaſional extraordinary allowance, and never till now looked upon, much leſs demanded, as a right; that the withholding it was an act of the

Company, the governor and council having therein only obeyed the poſitive commands of the Court of Directors; that the combination which the gentlemen of this brigade had formed, to reſign the ſervice altogether on the ſame day, was no leſs a crime than mutiny, for which the ring-leaders would certainly undergo the ſevereſt puniſhment that martial law could inflict; and that moſt of the inferior offenders ſhould be ſent away to England by the firſt ſhips of the enſuing ſeaſon:—he further obſerved to them, that he was himſelf a ſoldier, and had always been a friend to the army; that he had lately given a very ſtrong inſtance of his regard both to the officers and private men, having eſtabliſhed a fund for the ſupport of all thoſe who ſhould be incapable of duty, or worn out; and alſo to the widows of thoſe who ſhould die in the ſervice. He concluded with exhorting them to behave with regularity and ſobriety, and to do their duty as ſoldiers, till the arrival of officers, who were then on the road to Monghyr.

He then ſpoke by an interpreter to the ſeveral battalions of black troops, and highly applauded them for the inſtance they had ſo lately given of their ſteadineſs and faithful attachment to the Company; he diſtributed honorary rewards to the ſeveral commandants and non-commiſſioned officers, and ordered double pay to be iſſued to the private men for the months of May and June.—The whole brigade was much pleaſed with theſe marks of regard from the commander in chief; expreſſed their ſatisfaction and gratitude with decent acclamations; and when they were diſmiſſed from the parade, retired without tumult or diſturbance to their quarters.

A de-

A detachment of ſeapoys was the next day ſent out in queſt of the officers who had reſigned, and were now encamped within a few miles of Monghyr, intending to wait the arrival of their aſſociates from the other brigades, and conſult together upon the unexpected defeat they had already ſuſtained. Lord Clive ſuſpecting their intentions, gave orders that they ſhould immediately proceed to Calcutta, and aſſured them, that if they did not depart quietly, the detachment ſhould convey them away by force. This meſſage had the deſired effect, and the detachment ſoon returned to the garriſon, with an account that the malcontents having divided themſelves into ſmall parties, were all gone towards the preſidency, ſome by water, and ſome by land. Several ſubalterns from the out factories, who had not joined in the combination, and who had received lord Clive's orders to repair to Monghyr, were by this time arrived, and ten or twelve others were expected in a very few days from Calcutta.

Affairs being thus happily ſettled at Monghyr, lord Clive and general Carnac reſolved to proceed on the 17th to Patna, from whence they could the more eaſily convey aſſiſtance to colonel Smith, whoſe critical ſituation required their principal attention. In the mean time, they ſent forward a few officers to ſir Robert Barker, with orders, in caſe their preſence ſhould not be abſolutely neceſſary at Bankipore, to march on with all poſſible expedition to Allahabad, where they would receive farther orders from colonel Smith.

Neither the officers nor the men at Bankipore behaved in ſo tumultuous a manner as thoſe at Monghyr. The reſignation indeed took place at

the ſame time; but a much greater proportion of officers remained with ſir Robert Barker than with ſir Robert Fletcher, and ſo much cooler had they grown upon reflection, that many more would have returned to their duty, had they not been apprehenſive that ſome of the ringleaders would be called to an account by a court martial; at which thoſe who retracted might be obliged to officiate, contrary to the oath that bound them to protect the lives of each other *. As to his European regiment, it conſiſted chiefly of new recruits, who ſhewed not the leaſt diſpoſition to be troubleſome,—his chief deficiency was in artillery officers. He therefore took the command of that corps himſelf, and likewiſe of a battalion of ſeapoys. Lieutenant-colonel Chapman, an officer of great experience and addreſs, was very inſtrumental in preventing a total deſertion of ſubalterns, and in preſerving diſcipline amongſt the Europeans in the cantonments, whilſt major Grant took charge of a conſiderable diviſion of the brigade which ſir Robert Barker had prudently detached, upon the firſt intimation he received of the intended reſignation.

It is now time to give an account of the tranſactions at the camp in the lines of Serrajepore, under the command of colonel Smith, who being in a very critical ſituation, at the eve, as was imagined, of a battle, and at a great diſtance from that relief which the other brigades might obtain, laboured under peculiar difficulties.

On the 6th of May, all the officers in camp, two only excepted, wrote to the colonel for leave to reſign their commiſſions, ſome demand-

* See Appendix, No. 46.

ing

ing their diſcharge immediately, others on the 1ſt of June †. His aſtoniſhment at ſuch extraordinary conduct, and the reſolution he immediately came to, are expreſſed in his letter to the ſelect committee, and his general orders iſſued out that day, of which the following are copies.

" My Lord and Gentlemen,

" With ſurprize and concern I acquaint you, " that the major part of the officers of this detach- " ment have wrote to me for leave to reſign their " commiſſions: ſome have demanded their diſ- " charge immediately, others at the expiration " of the month. I tranſmit you a copy of the or- " ders of this day, which will ſhew in lively co- " lours my opinion of this tranſaction; in the " mean time I requeſt your immediate anſwer " concerning this event, with your inſtructions.

" The officers of the garriſon at Allahabad " have alſo ſigned a requeſt of the ſame nature; " but as it was ſmuggled to me, without coming " through the proper channel, I ſhall return it to " them; however it ſerves to convince me that " this is a general diſaffection.

" If all the officers of this detachment had de- " termined to turn about on their colours, it " ſhould have had no effect upon my meaſures. " The field officers, and ſome two or three others, " who have not forgot what they owe to their " own honour, muſt exert themſelves with more " alacrity. I have the honour to ſubſcribe my- " ſelf, with much reſpect, &c.

" Camp in the lines of " Serrajepore, 6th May, 1766. " Richard Smith."

† Note, all theſe officers, being in the field, and without the provinces, were in the receipt of the double batta.

General orders given out by colonel Smith, at the camp in the lines of Serrajepore, 6th May, 1766.

" The colonel cannot find words ſufficiently " ſtrong, to expreſs his aſtoniſhment at the con- " duct of all thoſe officers, who have applied to " him for leave to quit the ſervice at this particu- " lar juncture, at a time when an enemy's army, " and that army ſo numerous, is encamped at no " great diſtance from us. This is a behaviour " ſo foreign to every thing that has the leaſt " connection with honour, that the colonel " bluſhes to find his countrymen can ſo readily " ſacrifice their own reputation to any private " views or conſiderations whatſoever: when theſe " honourable motives have no longer any influ- " ence, the ſervice of ſuch officers is by no means " deſirable. Captains Scott and Auchmuty, " captain-lieutenants Clifton and Black, lieu- " tenant Ellerker, and enſign Maverly, having " requeſted leave to reſign, are ordered to pro- " ceed to Calcutta directly. All thoſe officers " who have been pleaſed to fix the 1ſt of June " as the period of their ſervices, ſhall have an " anſwer before that day: in the mean time the " colonel cannot but remark, that thoſe officers " who have requeſted leave to reſign their com- " miſſions, have ſet a moſt extraordinary ex- " ample to the black troops; and the colonel, " by their conduct, will be reduced to the ne- " ceſſity of placing that confidence in the fide- " lity of the black officers, which hitherto had " been properly repoſed in the zeal of his fellow " countrymen."

" Richard Smith."

Colonel

Colonel Smith's letter, accompanied with a copy of the above orders, came to lord Clive's hands on the morning of his arrival at Monghyr: his lordſhip's anſwer, and approbation of the colonel's conduct, will appear in the Appendix, No. 47. and No. 48.

On the 7th May, colonel Smith received the following letter from the officers in camp:

To colonel Richard Smith, commander in chief, &c.

" SIR,

" When aſperſions, unmerited, ungenerous, " and unjuſt, are publicly caſt, with evident in- " tentions to blacken the reputation of a corps, " who have by length of ſervice, and the moſt " ardent zeal, eminently diſtinguiſhed them- " ſelves for their beloved country, the honourable " Company, and their own honour; and who " have repeatedly been witneſs to the vanity of " endeavouring, by repreſenting the moſt ſub- " miſſive and moſt conſiſtent with the character " they are determined to maintain, of hoping the " leaſt redreſs or proſpect of relief from griev- " ances inſupportable to their minds, it behoveth " them, in vindication of themſelves, to make " this public teſtimonial, that neither the ſup- " poſed enemy, which they deſpiſe, nor the de- " ſign of injuring their honourable maſters, " which they hold dear, has the leaſt tendency, " nor was the ſmalleſt motive conducive to the " requeſt of any individual of this corps, for li- " berty to reſign a ſervice, which, with the ut- " moſt regret, they are compelled to relinquiſh, " for that happineſs, which is the only end of their " being in more hoſpitable climates, when even " hopes are annihilated here. Can it therefore

" be expected, that any ties can be more bind-
" ing than the ties of nature; or that freedom,
" and the deſire of that liberty we inherit from
" our fathers, can be denominated diſhonour or
" reproach? But though firmly aſſured of the
" juſtice and probity of our proceedings as indi-
" viduals, we cannot behold, without ſomething
" more than ſorrow, the public orders of the 6th
" inſtant, which, as they can be productive of
" no compunction in minds ſatisfied with them-
" ſelves, we humbly think, that whatever part
" of them was intended to ſtigmatize us with
" diſhonour, had much better been omitted:
" as this is a point every gentleman will find too
" hard to reconcile to his own breaſt, we are
" ſorry we are obliged to give this inſtance of
" gratitude to the ſervice, at the peril of loſing
" that honour, which, than life, is to a ſoldier
" more dear. In the mean time we will adhere
" to our duty, in the manner each has ſignified
" for himſelf: but to continue ſervice without
" confidence, yea, without honour, as by impu-
" tation we are at preſent ſuppoſed, were, in
" reality, to be what we are thought, and to
" merit what we do not deſerve. We deſire
" therefore that this may be forwarded to the
" honourable preſident and council, that by no
" miſrepreſentations we may yet ſuffer in their
" eſteem; and are ſtill with the greateſt reſpect,

" Sir,

" 7th May, " your moſt obedient,
" 1766. " humble ſervants,

" David Scott, — capt.
" A. Forbes Auchmuty, — ditto.
" Ch. Clifton, — capt. lieut.
" Alex^r. Black, — ditto.
" E. Eller-

" E. Ellerker, — lieut.
" C. Maverly, — enſigh.
" Alex^r. Dowe, — capt.
" John Buckley, — enſign.
" Rob^t. Brooke, — lieut.
" W^m. Vertue, — lieut.
" W^m. Benton, — lieut.
" James Nicols, — capt.
" W^m. Fenwick, — lieut.
" John Jones, — lieut.
" G. B. Eyres, — lieut.
" Rich^d. Rice, — enſign.
" Matt. Nail, — 2d. lieut.
" Hen. Lidele, — lieut. f. art.
" Denis Fieldhouſe, — enſign.
" Dan^l. Dow, — enſign.
" Gab^l. Harper, — lieut.
" Gab^l. Johnſtone, — enſign."

To this the colonel returned the following anſwer:

General orders.—Camp in the lines of Serrajepore, May 8th, 1766.

" As the firſt point of honour in all officers of " the army ſhould be fidelity to the ſtate they " ſerve, ſo no private conſiderations can exculpate or extenuate the conduct of thoſe officers, " who can ſo far forget their duty as to form an " aſſociation againſt their ſuperiors, more eſpecially at a time when the troops are employed, " and poſſibly actual ſervice may happen. The " colonel is therefore invariable in his opinion, and thinks ſuch conduct is foreign to " every thing that has the leaſt connection with " honour; for this reaſon, thoſe officers who fixed

" fixed ſo ſhort a period to their ſervices, were
" promiſed an anſwer before the end of the month.
" The colonel has received a letter, ſigned by
" the major part of the detachment. When offi-
" cers forget what they owe to their own honour
" and the public ſervice, the colonel is by no
" means ſurprized they ſhould forget the reſpect
" due to him; therefore as captains Dowe and
" Nichols, lieutenants Eyres, Benton, and Jones,
" had acquainted the colonel with their inten-
" tions to reſign at the end of this month, he
" now directs thoſe officers to proceed without
" delay to Calcutta.

" Richard Smith."

In the afternoon of the day whereon this laſt general order was iſſued, lieutenant Vertue came to colonel Smith, and deſired leave to reſign his commiſſion immediately. The colonel told him, that by the general order of the 6th, he was promiſed an anſwer before the end of the month, and that he certainly ſhould have an anſwer before the expiration of that period; but that he would not permit him to reſign. After ſome altercation, lieutenant Vertue told the colonel, that if he would not accept his commiſſion, he ſhould be under the neceſſity of leaving it with him. He accordingly laid down his commiſſion upon the table, acquainted the colonel he had done ſo, and took his leave.

Colonel Smith finding the lieutenant had actually left the camp, took the neceſſary meaſures for his being apprehended, that he might be brought to a trial for diſobedience of orders and deſertion. He was accordingly put in arreſt on his arrival at Patna. The ſentence paſſed upon him

him by the general court martial will be hereafter mentioned.

Colonel Smith, on receipt of lord Clive's letters of the 29th of April, and the 2d of May, made public his lordſhip's ſentiments, together with thoſe of the committee in their letter to the council at Calcutta; and recommended to major Smith, the officer commanding at Allahabad, to uſe his utmoſt influence to bring the officers in garriſon to a proper ſenſe of their duty, diſpatching to them at the ſame time the following remonſtrance from himſelf upon the ſubject:

To the captains and ſubalterns of the ſecond regiment of infantry, in garriſon at Allahabad.

" Gentlemen,

" If the public ſervice could poſſibly diſpenſe " with my abſence from the camp, moſt aſſuredly I would repair to Allahabad; for I cannot " read your letter to me, wherein you declare " your intentions of reſigning your commiſſions, " without feeling the utmoſt concern: as I cannot therefore aſſemble you together in perſon, " I muſt take this method of offering my ſentiments. I entreat of you, gentlemen, for your " own honour, for my honour, and for the honour of the regiment, to weigh well this matter; view it I beſeech you, diveſted of prejudice, and ſuffer not yourſelves to be trifled " with againſt your better judgment. I have " tranſmitted major Smith, the commanding officer at Allahabad, the fixed determination of " lord Clive and the committee, with ſome other " papers relative to this matter, which he will com-

" communicate to you. It is impoſſible for me " to ſee, without the moſt alarming reflections, " all thoſe inevitable conſequences which muſt " enſue, if you perſiſt in this improper meaſure. " I conjure you therefore, not wantonly to aban- " don your fair proſpects in this ſervice; and as " I have not yet tranſmitted your requeſt to the " committee, I cannot receive a juſter ſatisfac- " tion than a deſire from you to ſuppreſs it.

" To my ſituation in the field you are no " ſtrangers; let me but hear you are again ſteady " in your duty, and I ſhall ſend orders for ma- " ny of you to join me with the utmoſt expedi- " tion, that if the enemy ſhould attempt to en- " ter theſe provinces, we may ſhare the honour " of defeating their intentions.

" With real regard I am,

" Gentlemen,

" your moſt obedient,

" humble ſervant,

" Head quarters in the lines of
" Serrajepore, 12th May, 1766.

" Richard Smith."

This letter, inſtead of prevailing on the officers to proceed no farther in their unmilitary reſolutions, ſerved only to exaſperate them the more, and drew from them the following intemperate reply:

To colonel Richard Smith.

" Sir,

" Your letter addreſſed to us, and that " of the honourable committee to the coun- " cil, have been made public to us by the " major this morning; and we are no ways

" ſurprized

" ſurprized, that after the infamy you have " attempted to brand us with in the order " of the ſixth (May) you ſhould entertain the " mean opinion of us, that we ſhould be " frightened from any reſolutions we have al- " ready teſtified to the public. The temerity of " an order of this kind is what principally ſur- " prized us, as we can conceive no good end it " would anſwer to the ſervice, while oppoſite " conſequences may be evident; you have there- " fore put it out of our power to render the ho- " nourable Company thoſe voluntary ſervices we " had before offered; ſo that we are come to a " final determination of proceeding downwards, " as we plainly perceive, by your not tranſmit- " ing our letter to the council, that we are trifled " with; and we are unanimouſly reſolved to ſet " out for Calcutta the 20th inſtant.

" We are, ſir,
" with due reſpect,
" The Gentlemen of the 2d Regiment."

The colonel's letter to lord Clive, incloſing the above, is inſerted in the Appendix, No. 49.

Upon this new declaration, that they would not continue to ſerve after the 20th of May, major Smith found himſelf in a very diſagreeable ſituation. Every captain and every ſubaltern of the European regiment, lieutenant Delafield only excepted, were concerned in the combination, and many of them behaved in ſuch a diſreſpectful and turbulent manner, as convinced him they were rather inclined to promote, than diſcourage a mutiny of the men. Their letter to the colonel above quoted, was by the major deemed of ſo inſolent a nature, that he intended to have put them

all

all in arreſt; but he was informed, that if he did, they would make the ſoldiers take up arms againſt him, as they had already engaged the men in their cauſe. Under theſe circumſtances, he judged it neceſſary to diſpatch an expreſs to Serrajepore, for an old battalion of ſeapoys, which he had long commanded, and whoſe behaviour he knew might be relied on in any caſe of emergency. This battalion, under the command of lieutenant Brooke, performed the march with ſurpriſing expedition: in two days and ſix hours they reached Allahabad, which is one hundred and four miles diſtant from the lines of Serrajepore, arriving ſeveral hours before the time fixed upon by the officers for evacuating the garriſon. Major Smith had by this time brought ſeveral of them to a more proper ſenſe of their duty, and they all agreed to ſerve, according to their firſt propoſal, to the end of the month. This moderation of temper however did not long remain general. On the 22d lieutenant Manſell, and enſign North, came to him, as deputies from the corps, deſiring him to diſmiſs lieutenant Peek from the employment of adjutant, and to turn him away from his table; and when the major deſired to know the reaſon of this mutinous and unſoldierlike meſſage, they replied, that Mr. Peeke had retracted from his engagement with them, and was no longer a man of honour. Major Smith, enraged at this additional inſtance of diſaffection, immediately confined lieutenant Manſell and enſign North, and ordered lieutenant Delafield and lieutenant Brooke to get the eighth battalion under arms; he then went himſelf and put all the officers of the garriſon in arreſt, except four; telling them, he expected they ſhould within an hour make a proper ſubmiſſion for the affront they had offered to

his

his authority; and that if they preſumed to break their arreſt, or attempted to raiſe any diſturbance in the fort, the ſeapoys ſhould have orders to put every one of them to death.—This ſpirited behaviour produced an immediate ſubmiſſion, and he ſoon releaſed them all, except the gentlemen of the deputation, and four others whom he thought proper to ſend priſoners to Patna.

While the officers at Allahabad were thus prevented from carrying matters to extremities, colonel Smith, by the like means, ſecured tranquillity in camp. Entertaining no doubt of the fidelity of the black troops, and perceiving that no good was to be expected from the generality of the European officers under his command, he diſmiſſed above half the corps, and ordered them to proceed to Calcutta.

On the 20th of May, lord Clive and general Carnac arrived at the cantonments at Bankipore, where, as has already been mentioned, the defection had not been attended with much inconvenience, ſince many of the officers of the third brigade, although they had reſigned their commiſſions, continued nevertheleſs to do duty.—All theſe, therefore, at the interceſſion of ſir Robert Barker, lord Clive conſented to reſtore.

Intelligence being brought, that thoſe who had left the cantonments were ſtill hovering about Patna, a party of ſeapoys was ſent out to order them to depart immediately to Calcutta; and as the officers from Serajepore and from Allahabad were upon the road, detachments were placed at proper ſtations, to obſerve their motions, and to prevent their raiſing diſturbances in the country. Lord Clive at the ſame time wrote to the French and Dutch chiefs of Chandernagore and Chinſura, informing them of what had paſſed, and deſiring them

them not to ſuffer any of the Engliſh officers to take refuge in their factories. To ſir Robert Fletcher he ſent orders, that not a man from the ſecond or third brigade ſhould, on any pretence whatſoever, be permitted to enter the gates of Monghyr; and to the council at Calcutta he recommended, that a watchful eye ſhould be kept upon the conduct of the officers after their arrival at the preſidency; and that, if they attempted to foment diſturbances, they ſhould be all confined in the new fort, until the Europe ſhips ſhould be ready to receive them on board. In the mean time, as many of the principals of the combination as could be found, were put under an arreſt, in order to take their trial as ſoon as a general court martial of field officers could be ſummoned. The temper of the ſecond brigade alſo was now much altered. The officers whom lord Clive had ſent forward to Allahabad, on their arrival, received orders from colonel Smith to join him at Serajepore; but there happily proved no occaſion for their ſervice.—The fate of the combination at Monghyr and Bankipore ſoon became publicly known at Allahabad and in camp. The gentlemen of the ſecond brigade were now convinced, that the ſcheme for the recovery of the double batta would prove ineffectual; they ſaw that lord Clive would not yield to their demands; that colonel Smith was not afraid, even in his critical ſituation, to truſt wholly to the fidelity of the black officers; that ſome of their aſſociates were in arreſt for mutiny and deſertion; that many others were to be ſhipped off for England; that a ſtrong ſupply would ſoon arrive from Madraſs, and that in the mean time the field officers of each brigade, with the aſſiſtance of the few captains and ſubalterns, who by a timely ſub-

miſſion

miſſion were reſtored to the ſervice, could keep the whole army in good order and diſcipline.—Theſe conſiderations, added to the reflection that their fortune and reputation, if not their lives, were at ſtake, prevailed upon them not to quit their brigades at the time agreed upon, but to ſolicit forgiveneſs and reſtoration.—They accordingly made all poſſible ſubmiſſion for the irregularities they had been guilty of, and requeſted permiſſion to continue in the ſervice. Colonel Smith, who had authority from lord Clive to pardon thoſe whom he wiſhed to retain in his brigade, reinſtated all who had behaved with moderation, and who were not in other reſpects unworthy of favour.

Repentance and humiliation now became general. Letters of recantation arrived from almoſt every officer; each acknowledging the raſhneſs and crime of the late aſſociation, and each ſoliciting permiſſion to return to his duty—few of the ſubalterns had any other means of ſubſiſtence, than their commiſſions in the company's ſervice, and many of them were very young men, who had been inveigled, or rather forced, into the combination by their elders; for when the ringleaders failed in the art of perſuaſion, they ſcrupled not to have recourſe to violence, threatening ſome with the eternal obliquy of their brother officers, and others even with death, if they refuſed to reſign their commiſſions: tenderneſs and compaſſion therefore took place of the rigour of military diſcipline; all the enſigns, many of the lieutenants, and ſeveral even of the captains, were re-inſtated in the ſervice; but, in order to prevent any future combination, it was at the ſame time given out in public orders, that every officer who had reſigned, and was reſtored, ſhould

be obliged to execute a contract, not to quit the ſervice under a certain limited time, without giving a year's notice.

With regard to thoſe who had deſerted their duty in the field at Serrajepore, ſeveral of them were kept in arreſt to take their trials; and others, whoſe conduct had been in a leſs degree exceptionable, were ordered to hold themſelves in readineſs to embark for Europe. Many of the vacancies were in a few weeks filled up by officers from the Coaſt, who were admitted according to the rank they held on the Madraſs eſtabliſhment, ſo far as not to prejudice any of equal rank in Bengal, who had not reſigned their commiſſions. The army was thus in a manner new modelled, and, we may venture to aſſert, became ſoon as complete, with reſpect to good officers and diſcipline, as any army of the Company in India ever was before that period.

The happy iſſue of this conſpiracy is not to be attributed to the reſolution of lord Clive alone: an oppoſition of ſuch a dangerous nature, abetted and encouraged as this was, by many gentlemen in the civil ſervice, and at a time when the provinces were threatened with an invaſion, could not have been overcome, had not the meaſures ſuggeſted by his lordſhip been ſteadily purſued, and unanimouſly ſupported, by the council. Much alſo is to be attributed to the activity and firmneſs of the field officers of each brigade, without which all the efforts of government would probably have proved unſucceſsful. Theſe gentlemen, as has been obſerved in the courſe of the narrative, ſeverally exerted themſelves in ſuppreſſing the tumultuous diſpoſition of the officers under their command, and alſo in preventing a mutiny of the ſoldiers, which ſeemed almoſt the

natural

natural conſequence of a defection of the captains and ſubalterns. Nor would it be proper to diſmiſs this ſubject without remarking, that the fate of the Eaſt India Company depended at that time, and will ever in a great meaſure depend, upon the attachment of the native diſciplined troops, which indeed is not to be ſuſpected, ſo long as they are regularly paid, well commanded, and treated with humanity.

To what lengths the military gentlemen, had they ſucceeded in the firſt inſtance, would afterwards have extended their demands, can ſcarcely be conjectured; but it has been confidently aſſerted, that, beſides the reſtoration of double batta, the officers intended to inſiſt upon three other points.

1ſt. The abolition of the new covenants, concerning the receipt of preſents from the princes of the country:

2d. The annihilation of the powers of the ſelect committee: and

3d. A ſolemn promiſe from the governor and council, and a ſtanding order of the board, that none of the officers in Bengal ſhould, in future, be ſuperſeded by any others appointed by the court of directors from England, or from either of the Company's ſettlements in India.

It is not to be imagined, that all thoſe officers who were now excluded the ſervice, and directed to leave India, readily complied with the orders for embarkation. Some there were who determined to reſiſt: amongſt theſe were Meſſrs. Duffield and Robertſon, two of the ringleaders of the combination in the third brigade. In the month of Auguſt, when they received orders to embark upon the Lord Camden, then under diſpatch for

Europe, they ſent a remonſtrance to the board; ſetting forth, that they ſhould be greatly diſtreſſed, if driven to the neceſſity of leaving India before they had ſettled their private affairs; and that therefore they neither could nor would comply with the orders. They alſo delivered in a proteſt, declaring the board reſponſible for the conſequences of enforcing obedience; Mr. Robertſon at the ſame time repreſenting, that the ill ſtate of his health would not admit of his making a voyage, without endangering his life. That there might be no doubt in this particular, the governor and council directed the principal ſurgeons of the ſettlement to viſit him; and the ſubſtance of their report was, that they did not find any objection on account of his health, to his going on board of ſhip.

Apprehenſive that the authority of the board would not be thus baffled, the gentlemen thought proper, as the laſt reſource, to ſhut themſelves up in their houſes, and barricade their doors. Theſe means, they concluded, would effectually ſecure them from the civil power; and as to martial law, they defied it, becauſe they had been pleaſed to reſign their commiſſions, and would therefore be no longer conſidered as military men. The governor and council immediately taking into conſideration the meaſures neceſſary to be purſued upon this occaſion, came unanimouſly to the following reſolutions, viz.

" Reſolved, that as Meſſrs. Duffield and Ro-
" bertſon have, by their unwarrantable and mu-
" tinous conduct in the late aſſociation, forfeited
" the privilege of reſiding within the boundaries
" of the Company's poſſeſſions; and have, in
" defiance of the orders of the board, refuſed to
" embark on the Lord Camden for Europe, they

" be

" be compelled to embark on board the ſaid ſhip
" ſhip, that they may be conveyed to England.
" And although, from an act of the
" of George the Firſt, we derive a ſufficient au-
" thority to have recourſe on this occaſion to the
" civil power; yet, conſidering that Meſſrs. Duf-
" field and Robertſon are military men; and that
" the delays which unavoidably attend the pro-
" ceeding of the civil magiſtrate in Calcutta
" would be extremely dangerous to all law, good
" order, and government, at a time when the
" mutinous opinion, that the army is not ſubject
" to the articles of war, is ſo induſtriouſly pro-
" pagated and openly avowed: it is agreed, that
" the ſaid gentlemen be, without delay, appre-
" hended by the military power, and kept in con-
" finement as mutineers, until they can be em-
" barked, when they ſhall be ſent on board the
" ſhip under a guard.

" At the ſame time the board think it a neceſ-
" ſary caution, in the inſtructions to be given
" to the officer who ſhall be employed upon this
" occaſion, to order him on no account to break
" open doors or windows to come at the perſons
" of Meſſrs. Duffield and Robertſon; but ſhould
" he find them barricadoed in their apartments,
" and that they obſtinately perſiſt in refuſing
" to ſurrender themſelves (as, from the informa-
" tion received, will moſt probably be caſe) that
" he content himſelf with placing centinels round
" the houſe, ſo as to prevent an eſcape, and
" to hinder any perſon or proviſions going in to
" them.

" Theſe are determined upon as the moſt
" moderate means of enforcing the above
" reſolution of the board; and the right ho-
" nourable the preſident is deſired to give the

" neceſſary orders for carrying the ſame into
" execution.

" We cannot but be unanimouſly of opinion,
" that the mutinous conduct of theſe gentle-
" men, during the late treacherous combination,
" would alone have juſtified the reſolution of
" this day's conſultation: but we are farther
" convinced of the propriety thereof, when we
" conſider that the moſt frivolous pretexts and
" diſingenuous artifices have been made uſe of,
" in order to evade the legal executive power of
" this government; that the moſt audacious
" defiance has been publicly bid to our autho-
" rity; and that the permitting theſe men to
" continue in the ſettlement would not only
" create any opinion, that every man has in him-
" ſelf a right, independent of the Company, to
" reſide in India, but likewiſe greatly tend to
" the encouragement and encreaſe of that ſpi-
" rit of ſedition, mutiny, and conſpiracy,
" which has been raging throughout the army,
" and which it is our indiſpenſable duty, for the
" ſecurity of the whole, by almoſt any means to
" overcome."

In conſequence of the above regulation, a guard, under the command of a prudent officer, was appointed by lord Clive to apprehend Meſſrs. Duffield and Robertſon, with the ſtricteſt orders not to force doors nor windows, but to watch an opportunity to ſecure the priſoners with as little violence as poſſible. Meſſrs. Duffield and Robertſon, ſuſpecting the meaſures that would be purſued, had laid in a ſufficient ſtock of proviſion to ſerve them longer than they judged the governor and council would chuſe to delay the diſpatch of the ſhip. In this ſituation, therefore, they continued ſeveral days, when, having obtained

tained information that the Lord Camden had ſailed, they opened their doors, came forth, were apprehended by the guards, and put on board the Ann ſloop, which conveyed them ſafely to Madraſs, from whence they were ſent, by the way of Bombay, to England.

It has been aſſerted, and indeed there is no doubt, that ſome of the gentlemen in the civil ſervice, not only by their example and exhortations, encouraged the officers of the army in every act of oppoſition to government, but ſubſcribed money for the maintenance of thoſe, who might ſuffer by the reſignation of their commiſſions.

One of the principal ſervants at a ſubordinate factory aſſured general Carnac, in confidence, that he had been applied to by ſome gentlemen in Calcutta on the occaſion; and the officers at Monghyr and Bankipore in general declared from the beginning, that they depended upon a civil ſubſcription equal to that which was to be raiſed by the military. The council at Fort William exerted their utmoſt endeavours to diſcover the principal abettors of this ſubſcription; but the correſpondence between the army and the preſidency had been carried on with ſuch caution and ingenuity, that very few diſcoveries could be made. Their letters of greateſt ſecrecy and importance were conveyed by private poſts of their own, appointed for that purpoſe; and when they wrote by the public poſts, they wrote under cover to ladies, concluding that letters ſo directed would neither be opened nor intercepted. The leſs cautious were contented to diſguiſe their handwriting, and omit ſigning their names. One of theſe anonymous letters is entered in the Appen-

dix, No. 50, and the proceeding of the council thereupon is as follows:

" Fort William, 20th May, 1766.

" At a conſultation, preſent, Meſſrs. Sumner, " Verelſt, Marriott, Watts, Ruſſell, Alder- " ſey, Kelſall, and Floyer. Lord Clive and " general Carnac abſent up the country.

" An anonymous letter, addreſſed to lieu- " tenant Farmer, at Bankipore, having been ſent " down from the army, is now produced to the " board and read, and appears to be dated from " the New Fort the 6th of May; wherein the " writer, with great freedom, takes upon him " to cenſure the conduct of the governor and " council, for the manner in which they replied " to the late remonſtrance from the officers of " the third brigade; and containing ſome other " very unbecoming reflections, tending to in- " flame diſſenſions at the preſent critical period, " when the officers of the three brigades have " entered into a general aſſociation to reſign their " commiſſions unleſs double batta be reſtored; " the hand-writing of this anonymous letter be- " ing compared with the different ſets of buſi- " neſs in the ſecretary's office, is found to cor- " reſpond exactly with that of Mr. Grindal, one " of the aſſiſtants; who being called before the " board, and aſked if he wrote the letter, con- " feſſes it to be of his writing, acknowledg- " ing himſelf to be very deſerving of cenſure " for ſo imprudent a ſtep, but entreats the board's " forgiveneſs, as he declares the contents were not " the dictates of his own ſentiments, but merely " the reſult of what he had often heard in public " companies.

" Mr.

" Mr. Grindal being ordered to withdraw, and " the queſtion put, what cenſure ſhould be paſſ- " ed upon him for his miſconduct, the board are " unanimouſly of opinion, that Mr. Grindal is " highly deſerving of being ſuſpended from the " honourable Company's ſervice, and it is accord- " ingly reſolved, that he do ſtand ſuſpended until " the Company's pleaſure be known.

" And ordered, that the letter to Mr. Farmer " be entered after theſe minutes."

The language of Mr. Grindal, who was only an aſſiſtant, or clerk, in the ſecretary's office, will not be thought ſurprizing, when even the ſub-ſecretary himſelf is found to have been guilty of the ſame ſort of indiſcretion.

A copy of a letter from lord Clive and general Carnac to the board upon this ſubject, as alſo the letter therein referred to, from the ſub-ſecretary to lieutenant Robertſon, adjutant of the third brigade, are inſerted in the Appendix, No. 51 and 52; and the proceeding of the council thereupon was as follows:

" Fort-William, 9th June, 1766.

" At a conſultation, preſent, Meſſrs. Sumner, " Verelſt, Watts, Ruſſell, Alderſey, and " Floyer. Lord Clive and general Carnac " abſent up the country. Mr. Marriott " abſent.

" The anonymous letter addreſſed to lieutenant " Robertſon, encloſed in that received from lord " Clive and general Carnac, dated 29th of the " laſt month, as appears on the face of the ſepa- " rate proceedings, ſuppoſed to be the hand- " writing of Mr. Higginſon, the ſub-ſecretary,

" being now produced and read, as entered here-
" after; he is called before the board, and being
" aſked concerning it, acknowledges the letter to
" have been written by him.

" The board obſerve on the contents of this
" letter, that the writer ſeems heartily to
" eſpouſe the cauſe of the military officers in
" the late combination, by wiſhing them all the
" ſucceſs they can deſire. Mr. Higginſon, be-
" ing deſired to explain his meaning, expreſſed
" in the following terms, What will not am-
" bition and ſelf-intereſt lead many men to do?
" he declines it, thinking himſelf not under the
" neceſſity of diſcloſing his private ſentiments;
" aſſuring the board, at the ſame time, that
" he never entertained a wiſh that might in
" the leaſt tend to the prejudice of the Company's
" affairs.

" Mr. Higginſon being then ordered to with-
" draw, the board farther remark, that the tenor
" of his letter, now before us, is not only de-
" rogatory from his duty as a Company's ſer-
" vant; but highly diſreſpectful in the perſonal
" reflections he has caſt on the board, and parti-
" cularly inconſiſtent with the public truſt he
" holds of ſub-ſecretary, which ſhould have inſur-
" ed his attachment and fidelity to the govern-
" ment, inſtead of ſuffering in him the leaſt ten-
" dency to promote thoſe diſſenſions which have
" of late prevailed, and might have been attend-
" ed with the moſt fatal conſequence to the Com-
" pany's affairs.

" The honourable Court of Directors, in their
" commands, dated the
" have thought that the conduct of the junior
" ſervants at this preſidency for ſome time paſt,
" has been ſo exceptionable, as to grant us a

" power

" power of diſmiſſion from their ſervice, when " examples may be judged neceſſary; and the " board think Mr. Higginſon's conduct, in the " preſent inſtance, independently conſidered, is " deſerving thereof. But as Mr. Higginſon has " diſtinguiſhed himſelf by a diligent attention to " the duties of his ſtation ſince he has been " employed in the ſecretary's office, and has " ever borne a very favourable character, it " is reſolved, that he be ſuſpended only from " the honourable Company's ſervice until the " pleaſure of the Court of Directors be known, " which the ſecretary is ordered to ſignify to him " accordingly.

" Although the conduct of the civilians has of " late been exceptionable in many inſtances, the " board could hardly bring themſelves to be- " lieve, that the ſpirit of party and diſcontent " would have hurried them ſuch lengths as to " encourage the officers in their unprecedented " meaſures, by means of a ſubſcription for the " ſupport of ſuch as might reſign their commiſ- " ſions, as has been confidently aſſerted by the " officers themſelves. That the civilians have " been active in promoting the combination " among the officers, has already evidently ap- " peared by the anonymous letter Mr. Grindall " acknowledged to have written to lieutenant " Farmer, for which he was ſuſpended the ſer- " vice, and by the other anonymous letter men- " tioned by lord Clive and general Carnac, in " theirs of the 29th of May, of which Mr. Hig- " ginſon, the ſub-ſecretary, is proved to have " been the author, and for which he has alſo been " ſuſpended from the ſervice, as appears on the " minutes of our proceedings on this day in the " other department.

"The board therefore concur entirely in opinion with lord Clive and general Carnac, that "they ſhall be juſtified in opening all ſuſpicious letters, and in taking ſuch other meaſures "as may be moſt conducive to trace ſo criminal "a combination to its ſource; and it is reſolved, "that the authors of ſuch letters, in ſupport of "ſchemes by which the public ſafety is endangered, as well as all others that may appear to "have been concerned therein, ſhall be proceeded againſt in the ſevereſt manner."

Amongſt the anonymous letter-writers, was another gentleman, who thought fit to addreſs himſelf to the whole army, but more particularly to the officers of the third brigade, on account of their continuing with ſir Robert Barker as volunteers, after the time agreed upon for the general reſignation. He accuſes them of the folly of not engaging the aſſiſtance of the men, which could alone have ſecured ſucceſs, lord Clive having declared, that nothing leſs than a mutiny of the ſoldiers ſhould force him to comply with the terms of the officers: he reproaches them for their daſtardly behaviour in ſuffering Duffield, Robertſon, &c. to be ſent to Calcutta; reminds them of the ridicule they would undergo from the gentlemen in the civil branch, if they ſhould not obtain the victory; and concludes with the recital of a fictitious dialogue between lord Clive and general Carnac, which the author audaciouſly aſſerts to be genuine, aud to have paſſed within his hearing. An exact copy of this ingenious performance is inſerted in the Appendix, No. 53.

Theſe, it is preſumed, are ſufficient ſpecimens of the inflammatory correſpondence: of the inſolent

ſolent alſo, and the libellous, many inſtances could be given. But it is time to enter upon more important points.

It has already been mentioned, that captain Goddard, and other officers of the firſt brigade, accuſed their lieutenant colonel of having been the firſt inſtigator of the crime which had involved ſo many of them in ruin. The miſchiefs of their enterprize were no ſooner obviated, and diſcipline reſtored, than ſir Robert Fletcher's conduct became the topic of every converſation; and on the 19th of June lord Clive received the following anonymous letter of which Mr. Bagot, ſurgeon to the firſt brigade, ſome time after, acknowledged himſelf to have been the author.

" Though an anonymous letter has but an in-
" different appearance, yet your lordſhip knows,
" that in ſome caſes it may be the only channel
" through which truth can be conveyed. This
" is particularly addreſſed to you, ſir, being the
" fountain of juſtice, from one who feels his
" own, and the hardſhips which many of his
" brother officers are likely to ſuffer on this oc-
" caſion. Be it known then to your lordſhip,
" that we have been led into the reſignation of
" our commiſſions, and therewith our whole ſup-
" port, by a man who now ſtands behind the
" curtain, deriding thoſe miſeries which his de-
" luding arguments have brought upon us. The
" plain matter of fact is this; that when ſir Ro-
" bert Fletcher found a reſignation was not like-
" ly to go forward by his private hints and en-
" couragement, he at laſt ventured to recom-
" mend it publicly, at a table of a dozen offi-
" cers; telling them, that the brigade major,
" and his aid du camp, ſhould firſt ſet the ex-
" ample; and that their diſcontents, joined to

" that

" that of the civilians, would inevitably deprive
" your lordſhip of all power; adding, that he
" was well acquainted with the Madraſs coun-
" ſellors *, who he was ſure would all join againſt
" you. He farther attempted to raiſe our in-
" dignation, by ſaying that the army was inſult-
" ed, their ſervices rewarded with ingratitude,
" and that your lordſhip's deſign was evidently
" to reduce us to contempt and beggary: above
" all things he beſeeched us to be ſpeedy in the
" affair, leſt the Europe ſhips ſhould carry home
" the news of your lordſhip's having accompliſh-
" ed what had been in vain attempted by former
" governors.—Your lordſhip's impartiality will
" now clearly point out who was the more cul-
" pable; we for following the advice of our
" commanding officer, or he for leading us into
" this ruinous meaſure, merely to gratify his pri-
" vate purpoſes. Juſtice and honour do now call
" upon your lordſhip: you will not, nay you
" cannot, ſuppreſs a ſtrict enquiry into this af-
" fair; the fate of many innocent people depend-
" ing upon it. You will then find what is here
" aſſerted confirmed beyond all doubt, with many
" aggravating circumſtances. Your lordſhip has
" been impoſed on in the account of his conduct
" to the Ducarels; it was he alone who endea-
" voured to promote a combination againſt
" them, which, to your lordſhip, 'tis appre-
" hended, he made a merit to break. Such
" other inſtances could be given your lordſhip
" of his duplicity, hypocriſy, injuſtice, and ra-
" paciouſneſs, as would make a man of com-
" mon honeſty bluſh to ſee human nature ſo de-

* Note, Four gentlemen, whom lord Clive and the ſelect committee had been under the neceſſity of calling from Madraſs to fill up vacancies in council at Bengal.

" graded

" graded in this individual. If this relation " ſeems exaggerated, bring it to the teſt."

In this, Sir Robert Fletcher had evidently an enemy, but not an accuſer. Lord Clive paid little attention to the anonymous charge, though many of the facts therein aſſerted correſponded too nearly with the public report, and with private information. The following letter, however, received a few days after from Sir Robert Fletcher himſelf, could not fail to convince his lordſhip, that the accuſation, in general, was founded upon truth.

" My lord,

" With great uneaſineſs I learn, that reports " have reached your lordſhip of my having aſſiſt- " ed and encouraged the officers in their late " combination; and I confeſs my concern is ag- " gravated, when, by a mature conſideration of " my conduct, I find I have acted with an im- " prudence that leaves matter, which, in the " hands of my enemies, might turn to my pre- " judice; at the ſame time that I could take a " moſt ſolemn oath of my having acted entirely " from principles and motives that I then judged " neceſſary to the public good, and ſuch as " would have been called good policy in a com- " manding officer not ſurrounded, as I have been, " with a crowd of enemies, whoſe province it is " to ſnatch up, to my prejudice, the very ex- " preſſions which they themſelves know were cal- " culated to deceive them, and which I hope my " latter conduct hath ſufficiently proved. As for " the combination itſelf, it was near the end of " April before I knew any thing of it. I con- " demned it immediately as a mutinous act, uſed " every endeavour to extricate all thoſe from it,

" for whom I had any kind of regard; and when
" I found I could not prevail, I informed your
" lordſhip of all that I knew of their ſchemes;
" contrary to a promiſe of ſecrefy, on which
" condition alone I found I could gain a know-
" ledge of their intentions. If the reports I
" mention have prejudiced me in your lordſhip's
" opinion, I earneſtly requeſt you will give me
" ſuch information as may enable me to clear
" myſelf to the world and to you, whoſe good
" opinion I ſhould be highly concerned to forfeit,
" and to be diſappointed in the end to which all
" my endeavours to promote the ſervice have al-
" ways tended. I have the honour to be, with
" great reſpect, &c.

" Monghyr,
" 23d June 1766. Rob^t Fletcher."

Sir Robert Fletcher, as well as all the reſt of the field officers, who could be ſpared from duty with the brigades, was at this time under order to repair to Patna, where the general courts martial were to be held, and where lord Clive intended to have a conſultation upon military regulations and meaſures proper to be purſued in conſequence of the late aſſociation. He therefore thought proper to defer giving an anſwer to the above letter, till ſir Robert Fletcher's arrival. But in the mean time, the judge advocate general, at the inſtance of captain Goddard, laid a regular information of mutiny againſt ſir Robert Fletcher, who was thereupon put in arreſt the 3d of July, the day on which he arrived at Patna.

However intereſting the particulars of the accuſation againſt this gentleman may be, our attention muſt, for the preſent, be withheld by another extraordinary occurrence, of a different nature;

nature; of which lord Clive received intimation a few hours after Sir Robert Fletcher's arreſt, by the following letter from the council.

" My Lord,

" Having very good information that captain " Stainforth, of the firſt brigade at Monghyr, " during the courſe of the late combination made " uſe of threatening expreſſions againſt your " lordſhip's life, of which we expect in a few " days to have an undoubted proof, when we " ſhall immediately communicate the circum- " ſtances to your lordſhip, we are of opinion " that his perſon ſhould be immediately ſecured; " and recommend to your lordſhip to take " meaſures, without loſs of time, for that pur- " poſe. It was reported that another officer " had been alſo concerned with captain Stain- " forth; but we have ſince learnt that it was " without foundation.

" Fort William, " 24th June 1766." " We have the honour to be, &c."

Lord Clive, upon the receipt of this letter, ſent an order to the officer commanding at Monghyr, to ſend captain Stainforth in arreſt to Patna.

The proceedings of council on the 11th of July, of which the following is an extract, contain a full account of the charge exhibited againſt that officer.

" At a conſultation, preſent, Meſſrs. Sum- " ner, Vereleſt, Watts, Alderſey, Mar- " riott, Ruſſell, Kelſall, and Floyer.

" Mr. Verelſt having in conſultation the 24th " of June communicated the information he had " received of a propoſal of captain Stainforth's

" to aſſaſſinate the right honourable the preſi-
" dent, now acquaints the board that in conſe-
" quence of their deſire, he has ſince made the
" ſtricteſt enquiry, and is concerned to find the
" charge againſt captain Stainforth but too well
" ſupported by very aggravating circumſtances.

" From the further information he has now
" obtained, it appears, that in the height of the
" combination, captain Stainforth had propoſed
" to throw the die with any other perſon, to
" make a ſacrifice of lord Clive; that this pro-
" poſal was made in the preſence of Meſſieurs
" Wilding, Petrie, Dunbar, and Hoggan, and
" ſeveral other officers, who, ſhocked at ſo hor-
" rid a propoſal, deſired Mr. Hoggan would go
" to captain Stainforth the next morning, and
" aſk him whether he recollected to have made
" uſe of ſuch an expreſſion, and what he really
" intended by it: that ſo far from denying, he
" not only avowed the propoſal, but declared he
" continued in the ſame mind.

" That ſome time afterwards, when a review
" was expected on his lordſhip's arrival at Mong-
" hyr, captain Stainforth propoſed to the adju-
" tant, that inſtead of ſpontoons, the officers
" ſhould carry fuzils, which might give him the
" opportunity of getting rid of his lordſhip by
" a ball.

" Agreed that theſe particulars of the charge
" againſt captain Stainforth be communicated to
" lord Clive."

Although the trial of this gentleman was poſ-
terior to that of Sir Robert Fletcher, yet, in order
to diſmiſs ſo diſagreeable a ſubject, it is judged
proper in this place to inſert the ſentence of the
general court martial, which was as follows:

" The

" The court having taken into mature conſider-
" ation the evidence for and againſt the priſoner,
" together with his defence, are unanimouſly of
" opinion that he is guilty of the crime laid to
" his charge; which they judge to be a breach
" of the firſt part of the third article of the ſe-
" cond ſection of the articles of war. But the
" priſoner's extreme backwardneſs to enter into
" the combination having evidently appeared,
" and that the propoſal, ſhocking as it is, was
" mentioned at only one particular point of time;
" alſo the evidence in ſupport of the charge hav-
" ing depoſed that they thought him then either
" drunk or mad; and it being plain thoſe evi-
" dences imagined that no accident could enſue
" from ſo raſh a project, as the court have not
" heard that they made any report to their com-
" manding officer of it;

" Thoſe arguments, added to the priſoner's
" former good character, prevailed on the court
" only to caſhier him; and he is hereby ſentenc-
" ed to be caſhiered."

Thomas Pearſon, judge advocate.

Richard Smith, preſident.

The nature of the charge exhibited againſt ſir Robert Fletcher, has already been touched upon; but as captain Goddard's information before the council contains a full relation of particulars, the ſubſtance thereof, it is preſumed, will not be unſatisfactory.

" On the third of July, that gentleman de-
" livered into the board, a letter, wherein he
" acquainted them that he thought it incumbent
" upon him to trouble them with the reaſons of
" his late conduct in the reſignation; aſſured

" them that he would not have entered into ſuch " a meaſure, had he not been urged thereto by ſir " Robert Fletcher, who was one of the principal " inſtigators of the whole, an aſſertion which he " was both able and willing to prove; that ſir " Robert had reproached him with a want of " public ſpirit, pointing out the readineſs even " of thoſe who enjoyed double poſts, and private " intereſt, to join in the affair, particularly lieu- " tenant Bevan, (his major of brigade) whom he " afterwards obliged to recant and break his en- " gagement with the corps, in order to raiſe " himſelf by their ruin; and that ſir Robert Flet- " cher allowed lieutenant Bevan to draw private- " ly for the pay of ſeapoys, who never were en- " tertained in his (captain Godard's) battalion, " to the amount of 900 rupees (or 112 l.) per " month."

Captain Goddard was then called upon by the board to relate the particulars of the charge exhibited in his letter: whereupon he obſerves, " that captain Roper, captain Parker, Mr. Ba- " got, and Mr. Watts, having been preſent " when the converſation paſſed with ſir Robert " Fletcher on the ſubject of the aſſociation " amongſt the officers, and the two former being " ſhortly expected in Calcutta, he ſhould be glad " to wait their arrival before he enters into a " particular detail. But being deſired by the " board now to recite the moſt material circum- " ſtances, he informs them, that ſoon after the " aſſociation was ſet on foot, ſir Richard Fletcher " declared at captain Goddard's table, that he " was very much ſurpriſed that he (captain God- " dard) had not joined in that aſſociation, as he " thought an officer of his ſpirit would have been " one of the firſt to have engaged in it: to which

" captain Goddard anſwered, that he ſuppoſed " lord Clive had ordered the batta to be reduced " in conſequence of orders from the Company, " and that it was not an act of his own; when ſir " Robert Fletcher replied, he was ſure thoſe or- " ders were not poſitive, and that a general aſſo- " ciation amongſt the officers could not fail of be- " ing ſucceſsful; that as a proof of the diſinte- " reſtedneſs of the officers of his family, his own " aid de camp and brigade major had engaged in " it. Theſe circumſtances he pointed out as an " inducement to captain Goddard to join alſo in " the aſſociation, which to that time he had a- " voided, by not frequenting the meetings of the " officers when it was in agitation, but being " challenged in this manner after the affair had " become general, he was at length prevailed " upon to join with the reſt.

" Captain Goddard alſo acquaints the board, " that a day or two before lord Clive arrived at " Monghyr, when the officers were preparing to " come down to Calcutta in conſequence of the " board's orders to ſir Robert Fletcher, captain " Goddard deſired leave to ſtay, as he had ſome- " thing of conſequence to impart to his lordſhip; " but ſir Robert Fletcher gave him for anſwer, " that the orders of the board for ſending all who " had reſigned, to Calcutta, were ſo poſitive that " he muſt depart with the reſt. Captain Goddard " further ſays, that in the firſt orders he with " ſome other officers had ſeparately received from " Sir Robert Fletcher to come down, it was ex- " preſsly ſaid, that unleſs he complied with theſe " orders before five o'clock that evening, he " ſhould be ſent down under a military force. " Captain Goddard then informed the board, " that on the 13th of May, major Champion re-

" ceived a note, whilſt he was at ſupper, from
" ſir Robert Fletcher, which he communicated
" to him (captain Goddard) wherein he expreſſed
" his apprehenſion of a mutiny amongſt the ſea-
" poys of captain Goddard's battalion, which
" major Champion had taken command of in
" his room, to which he (captain Goddard) re-
" plied that ſir Robert Fletcher muſt then be
" better acquainted with them than he was, as
" they had always ſhewn a particular attachment
" to him (captain Goddard) and that he would
" undertake to anſwer for their not engaging in
" any deſperate meaſures. That the next morn-
" ing when he went to the fort at Monghyr in
" order to prepare for coming away in conſe-
" quence of the orders he had received above
" mentioned, he diſcovered the appearance of a
" mutiny amongſt the Europeans, and ſir Robert
" Fletcher endeavouring to pacify them, in which
" he offered his aſſiſtance, but ſir Robert told
" him there was no occaſion for it: that he then
" went to the place where the battalion of ſeapoys
" he had lately commanded was quartered, and
" acquainted major Champion with what had
" happened in the fort, and offered to ſtay with
" the ſeapoys to prevent any diſturbances; but
" major Champion told him there was not any
" neceſſity for it, as he had not diſcovered the
" leaſt appearance of ſuch intention among the
" ſeapoys. Captain Goddard then made known
" to major Champion and captain Pearſon, the
" circumſtance that had paſſed between him and
" ſir Robert Fletcher, in order to exculpate him-
" ſelf; as he had ſome reaſon to fear his conduct
" would have been impeached by him after his
" departure, which he has ſince heard was ac-
" tually the caſe.

" Mr.

" Mr. Verelſt then deſired the following queſ-
" tions might be put to captain Goddard.

Queſtion. " Did you ever hear ſir Ro-
" bert Fletcher ſay, that the diſcontents of
" the military, added to thoſe of the civi-
" lians, would deprive his lordſhip of all
" power?"

Anſwer. " I have heard ſir Robert Fletcher
" ſay, that now would be the time for the officers
" to puſh their ſcheme, while the civilians were
" all in a flame; or words to that effect."

Queſtion. " Did you ever hear ſir Ro-
" bert Fletcher ſay, that the Madraſs coun-
" ſellors would all join againſt his lordſhip?"

Anſwer. " No."

Queſtion. " Did you ever hear ſir Ro-
" bert Fletcher throw out any hints, that it
" was his lordſhip's intentions to reduce the
" army to a ſtate of contempt and beggary;
" that it was inſulted, and rewarded with
" ingratitude?"

Anſwer. " No."

Captain Goddard being then deſired to with-
draw, Mr. Verelſt informs the board, " That he
" has received from lord Clive a copy of an anony-
" mous * letter addreſſed to his lordſhip, which
" he deſires may be read and recorded, as the
" ſubject of it induced him to put the above
" queſtions to Mr. Goddard."

Sir Robert Fletcher, upon receipt of lord

* See page 61.

Clive's orders for going in arreſt, wrote to his lordſhip as follows, requeſting he might not be tried by a court martial, but by the governor and council at Calcutta.

" My Lord,

" Colonel Barker hath ſent me orders from " your lordſhip, which I have juſt now received, " for my going in arreſt; but I moſt earneſtly " requeſt your lordſhip will be pleaſed not to in- " ſiſt upon this, as I imagine it is intended to " bring me to a trial for my conduct regarding " the combination, but indulge me with the pri- " vilege of repairing to Calcutta, where I may " have the honour of being tried by your lord- " ſhip and the council, before whom I have " not the leaſt doubt of clearing myſelf with ho- " nour and credit. The nature of my defence is " ſuch, as I would by no means wiſh ſhould come " before a court martial here.

" I have the honour to be

" with great reſpect, &c.

" Patna, 3d July 1766. Robt Fletcher."

To which lord Clive returned the following anſwer.

" S I R,

" I have received your letter of this day's date. " You will not, I hope, entertain the leaſt doubt " of my willingneſs to oblige a gentleman in your " ſituation, in any requeſt that can with pro- " priety be granted. But that of your repairing " to Calcutta, in order to be tried by the pre- " ſident and council, upon an accuſation, your " exculpation from which depends merely upon

" military

" military law, is totally unprecedented, and " therefore improper for me to comply with. " That you may not however imagine that I in- " tend to take any other part, upon this occaſion, " than what my public ſtation requires, be aſſur- " ed that the court martial to be held upon your " late conduct will be aſſembled by an order from " the board, and the ſentence confirmed or diſ- " approved of by them.

" Meer Abſels, I am, ſir, &c.
" 3d July 1766. Clive."

This letter by no means anſwering his purpoſe, he applied to lord Clive the day following, that a court of enquiry, conſiſting of the gentlemen of council, might previouſly ſit upon his conduct. His letter was as follows :

" My lord,

" I have been honoured by your lordſhip's let- " ter of yeſterday; and although no precedent " of the like kind, perhaps from the want of op- " portunity, hath hitherto happened, yet I had " ſome hopes that my ſituation might induce you " to comply with my requeſt, which I made for " reaſons that your lordſhip and every ſenſible " man cannot but admit, who knows the nature " of courts martial in this country; when they " are too often in a great meaſure compoſed of " gentlemen whoſe birth and former lives have " given them no opportunity of acquiring an " education ſufficient to comprehend and to " judge in caſes that require the moſt ſerious " deliberations of men of knowledge and abili- " ties; and for the ſame reaſon, I beg your lord-

" ſhip

" ſhip will permit me now to requeſt, that a " court of enquiry may firſt be held, whereby " you, or the governor and council, may judge " whether I merit the diſgrace of being brought " to a court martial, which, whether culpable or " not, can never redound to my credit.

" I am with great reſpect,

" Patna, " My lord, &c.
" 4th July, 1766. Rob^t. Fletcher."

That a military officer ſhould be tried under an article of war for mutiny, by a board of gentlemen acting in a civil capacity, was not only unprecedented, but would have been abſurd, if not impracticable; nor would a court of inquiry, compoſed of the like members, have been leſs improper, ſince the conduct of a military man is always to be judged of by the rules and cuſtoms of the army, as well as by the letter of military law. Lord Clive did not therefore make any reply to this laſt propoſal, but wrote as follows to the gentlemen of council, incloſing copies of ſir Robert Fletcher's letters of the 3d and 4th of July, as alſo a copy of his anſwer to the former.

" Gentlemen,

" On the 3d inſtant I had the honour to inform " you of my having ordered lieutenant-colonel " ſir Robert Fletcher in arreſt. I am now far- " ther to acquaint you, that I have directed the " judge-advocate-general to give him notice that " the crime, for which he will be tried, is mutiny. " Encloſed are copies of two letters which I re- " ceived from him ſince his arreſt; and alſo a " copy of my anſwer to the one of the 3d inſtant; " to that of the 4th I have not thought proper

" to

" to reply. As it is very probable, that in the " courſe of the examination by the court martial, " it may appear that an intention to affect my " honour and government was one of the firſt " motives of the late combination, delicacy for- " bids my taking any part that can poſſibly bear " the imputation of private pique, or perſonal " reſentment: I muſt therefore requeſt that the " warrant for holding a general court martial " upon lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher, " may be iſſued by the preſident and council, and " the ſentence be confirmed or diſapproved by " them.

" Myr Abſels, I have the honour to be, &c.
" 5th July, 1766. " Clive."

Agreeably to the requeſt in the latter part of his lordſhip's letter, a warrant for the trial of ſir Robert Fletcher, and likewiſe for the trial of ſeveral other priſoners then in arreſt, was ſigned by the board and tranſmitted to Patna. Under this warrant, ſir Robert Fletcher, captain Stainforth, captain Parker, and enſign North, were tried, and the ſentences paſſed upon them confirmed by the governor and council.

The lenity which prevailed at the general courts martial upon theſe extraordinary trials, may perhaps be accounted for in the following manner. In the preamble to the act of parliament for puniſhing mutiny and deſertion of officers and ſoldiers in the ſervice of the Eaſt India Company, a contract ſeems to be implied as one of the obligations neceſſary for ſubjecting an officer, even in pay, to the rules and articles of war. The Court of Directors indeed have of late years thought proper to omit this form, for what

what reaſon we will not preſume to determine, but undoubtedly they were well adviſed on that head, ſince they cannot be ſuppoſed to have inadvertently fruſtrated the gracious intention of the legiſlature in ſo material a clauſe, preſerving only the authority to maintain an army, without the privilege of enforcing diſcipline by martial law. Be this as it may, it is evident from the riſe and progreſs of the combination, that the officers paid particular attention to the letter of the mutiny act, hoping ſo far to avail themſelves of the apparent limitation of parliament, as to evade that juſt ſeverity of puniſhment, which upon ſuch an occaſion, in any other country, muſt have been unavoidably inflicted; and could we with propriety animadvert upon the ſentences paſſed by the general courts martial, we ſhould be inclined to obſerve, that the members themſelves muſt have conſidered the defect we have here mentioned as a plea on behalf of the priſoners, which, whether urged or not, might render the legality of their proceedings doubtful, and which ſhould therefore incline their judgment to the ſide of mercy, even againſt the fulleſt conviction of guilt in the parties. Had it not been for this tenderneſs, it is ſcarcely probable, that out of ſix officers found guilty of mutiny, and other military offences, not one ſhould have been capitally convicted. Lieutenant Vertue of colonel Smith's brigade, who was tried under lord Clive's warrant, for diſobedience of orders and deſertion, endeavoured to avail himſelf of the omiſſion of a contract, proteſted againſt the juriſdiction of the court, and refuſed to plead. The court however rejected the priſoner's proteſt, and proceeded to the trial. It was proved that he received expreſs orders from his commanding officer,

officer, not to leave the camp; that he diſobeyed thoſe orders, and on the 8th of May, deſerted his duty; that in his letter to colonel Smith of the 6th of May, he agreed to ſerve to the end of the month, [this was deemed a ſufficient contract for that limited time] that he had ſigned himſelf as lieutenant in a letter of the 7th of May, addreſſed to colonel Smith, by the major part of the officers of the Corah detachment; that he was muſtered as a lieutenant in the ſervice on the 1ſt of May, and that his pay for the month of May had been drawn for in the cuſtomary manner. He was hereupon found guilty of the crimes of diſobedience of orders and deſertion, and ſentenced to be caſhiered with infamy, by having a ſword and eſpontoon broke over his head, and a ſaſh cut in pieces before him, at the head of all the troops cantoned at Bankipore.

When all the trials were finiſhed, lord Clive inſiſted that a form of contract, for binding the officers to ſerve a certain time, ſhould be executed throughout the army, excepting only by thoſe gentlemen who did not enter into the combination. Theſe he thought had a right to ſuch a diſtinction, ſince they had manifeſted, by a ſteady attachment to their duty, at the time of the general infatuation, that a juſt ſenſe of honour was to them a ſufficient contract. The form preſcribed was however voluntarily ſigned by them alſo; colonel Smith having publickly invited them by his example: a letter from lord Clive and council to the colonel upon this ſubject, is inſerted in the Appendix, No. 54, and alſo a copy of the contract, No. 55.

It is now time to take a view of the proceedings of the general court martial, which ſat upon the

the trial of lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher for mutiny.

Thomas Goddard, late captain in the firſt regiment of infantry on the Bengal eſtabliſhment, being duly ſworn, depoſed, that in the latter end of December 1765, or in January 1766, the following was the ſubject of converſation in a company conſiſting of lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher, captains Roper and Parker, lieutenants Watts, Dunbar, Bevan, and Francis, and Mr. Bagot, ſurgeon, who dined with him in one of thoſe months: that ſoon after dinner, to the beſt of his recollection, the reduction of the batta, and the memorial that had been preſented for the recovery of it, was the firſt ſubject ſpoken on by ſome of the officers preſent; upon which ſir Robert Fletcher ſaid, he thought they would have no effect, although the orders of the company on that head were not poſitive; that lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher then declared, there was one method to recover it, and that was by a general reſignation, which could not fail of ſucceſs, as the diſſenſion of the civil, joined to that of the military, would carry every thing, and he knew the Madraſs counſellors, being his friends, would join againſt lord Clive *. That the diſcourſe then turned upon the method of reſigning, when lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher ſaid, "ſend "me your commiſſions and I will receive them," and adviſed the ſcheme ſhould be put in execution, before the next ſhips ſailed for England, as their carrying home accounts of the batta being

* N. B. Captain Goddard's evidence here contradicts his evidence to the board; for when Mr. Verelſt aſked him if he ever heard ſir R. Fletcher ſay that the Madraſs counſellors would all join againſt his lordſhip, he anſwered poſitively in the negative. —Vide page 71.

reduced,

reduced, would ſtrengthen lord Clive's intereſt ſo much, that it would be in vain to attempt the recovery of it hereafter; and, at parting, he intimated that it might be prejudicial to him to have that converſation repeated. Captain Goddard farther depoſed, that ſir Robert Fletcher, the ſame evening, when he went out in a chaiſe with him, pointed out the readineſs of lieutenant Bevan's joining in the reſignation, who enjoyed a double poſt, [brigade major;] and at another time he remembers, that ſir Robert Fletcher told him, he knew of all the meetings of the officers, and what paſſed at them. The ſame evidence afterwards depoſed, farther, that he declared to captain Smith, aid de camp to general Carnac, that lieutenant colonel ſir Robert Fletcher was the perſon who induced him to enter into the combination; that his motive for making ſuch a declaration to captain Smith, was, the arguments made uſe of by ſir Robert Fletcher at his table, already mentioned; particularly ſir Robert Fletcher's advancing, that the meaſure could not fail of ſucceſs, added to his pointing out the readineſs of his brigade major to reſign, and another perſon telling him, in the preſence of ſir Robert Fletcher, that he (captain Goddard) wanted to get a majority, by the reſignation of others, or words to that purpoſe; and that until that time, captain Goddard had always been averſe to the combination; that ſir Robert Fletcher, publicly at table, that day expreſſed his ſuprize, that he (captain Goddard) had not joined in the combination, as he thought an officer of his ſpirit ſhould have been the firſt to have engaged in it; or words to that effect.

Captain Frederick Thomas Smith, aid de camp to general Carnac, being duly ſworn, depoſed, that on the 13th or 14th of May, captain Goddard

dard acquainted him, in the courſe of converſation, that he had been led into the reſignation of the ſervice by the perſuaſion of ſir Robert Fletcher, contrary to his own inclinations and opinion; the particulars of whoſe conduct towards him he had made known to major Champion, and captain Pearſon, and inſiſted upon captain Smith's acquainting lord Clive and general Carnac with this, in caſe he ſhould not have an opportunity of ſeeing them himſelf.

Thomas Roper, late captain in the third regiment of infantry, being duly ſworn, depoſed, that at captain Goddard's table, about the latter end of January, or beginning of February laſt, when the reduction of the batta, together with the memorial or remonſtrances for its recovery that either were preſented to the board, or about to be ſo, became the ſubject of converſation, ſir Robert Fletcher gave it as his opinion that they would prove ineffectual; at the ſame time intimated, that he did think it recoverable. That this produced a deſire of knowing how it was to be accompliſhed. That ſir Robert Fletcher ſaid it was not for him to point out a method, but obſerved, upon ſome of the Company's mentioning a reſignation, that that was the only method, and that the preſent diſſenſions amongſt the civilians in Calcutta, would greatly favour ſuch a meaſure; or words to that effect. That lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher ſaid, in the courſe of that day's converſation, that he would accept of the commiſſions, and that whatever was to be done, ought to be finiſhed before the ſhips ſailed. Mr. Roper farther depoſed, upon the queſtion's being put to him by the court, that he did hear lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher mention the Madraſs counſellors, but could

could not recollect upon what account; that captain Goddard was averſe to the meaſure (of reſignation) before that day, and that he afterwards came into it, but whether from what paſſed that day he could not determine.

Mr. James Watts, late lieutenant in the firſt regiment of infantry, being duly ſworn, depoſed, that in the month of December 1765 or January 1766, he dined with captain Goddard, and lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher was in company. That the converſation happening to turn upon the reduction of the batta, remonſtrances and a general reſignation were talked of to remove it; when ſir Robert Fletcher gave it as his opinion, that if a general reſignation ſhould take place, the batta would be reſtored; and farther ſaid, that he believed the orders reſpecting the batta were not poſitive.—That he propoſed the commiſſions ſhould be delivered up at the commencement of a month; that the officers ſhould receive no pay, but ſerve as volunteers 'till the determination of the governor and council ſhould be known, and that upon thoſe conditions he would accept of the commiſſions of the officers of the firſt brigade. Mr. Watts farther depoſed, upon the queſtion's being put to him by the court, that he heard the departure of the ſhips for Europe mentioned by ſir Robert Fletcher in that converſation, but that he did not recollect what he ſaid upon the ſubject; nor did he recollect what ſir Robert Fletcher ſaid concerning the diſſenſions amongſt the civilians proving favourable to the reſignation, though he recollected to have heard the word *diſſenſion* mentioned: that he did not recollect, that he ever declared he was influenced to reſign his commiſſion by lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher,

ther, but that upon the ſtrength of what captain Goddard had told him, he might have declared that captain Goddard was influenced to reſign his, though he did not recollect when, or to whom, he ever had made ſuch a declaration.

James Francis, lieutenant in the firſt regiment of infantry, being duly ſworn, depoſed, that in converſation which paſſed ſome time in December or January, in captain Goddard's tent, ſir Robert Fletcher aſked captain Goddard what he was afraid of: that he told him there was a method of getting the batta again. Captain Goddard ſaid, he did not know how. Sir Robert Fletcher again ſaid, there was a method, but it was not his place to point it out. That a little time after, ſir Robert Fletcher propoſed the officers ſhould all reſign their commiſſions, and ſerve as volunteers till an anſwer ſhould come from the board, and ſaid there were four counſellors come from Madraſs, and he would be bound to get their intereſt for the officers; and then ſaid, that as it was well known to the Company, that lord Clive was no friend of his, he hoped that diſcourſe would go no farther.

Captain Henry Bevan, brigade major to ſir Robert Fletcher, being duly ſworn, depoſed, that he never made ſir Robert Fletcher acquainted with the meetings held by the officers of the firſt brigade, to carry on the buſineſs of the reſignation; that he did not recollect he ever acquainted ſir Robert Fletcher that letters were frequently wrote, and propoſals made to the officers of the two other brigades, on the ſubject of the reſignation, or that the officers of the ſecond and third brigades had joined with thoſe of the firſt, before the 20th of April, about which time the affair was the ſubject of public converſation, and

he

he poſſibly might have mentioned it. That about the latter end of December, or beginning of January, ſir Robert Fletcher came into his room, (he at that time kept his bed) and told him that he heard the officers intended to reſign their commiſſions, on account of the batta being reduced: that ſir Robert Fletcher adviſed him not to enter into it; and to enforce his advice, ſaid, he thought it would be rather an advantage than a diſadvantage to the officers that expected to riſe high in the ſervice, as it would probably hinder a number of officers coming from Europe over their heads; and that about the twenty-firſt of April, he informed ſir Robert Fletcher, that he had been applied to for his commiſſion, when ſir Robert repeated the ſame advice he had before given.

Mr. James Dunbar, late aid de camp to ſir Robert Fletcher, being duly ſworn and queſtioned by the court, depoſed, to the beſt of his recollection, that between the eighteenth and twentieth day of April, he acquainted ſir Robert Fletcher, in a private converſation, that the officers had had a meeting, and received favourable accounts from the other brigades. He farther depoſed, that he did not doubt but he had mentioned to ſir Robert Fletcher, between the eighteenth and twentieth of April, that the officers received letters from the other brigades, and alſo wrote letters to them on the ſubject of the reſignation. That ſir Robert Fletcher knew of his intentions to enter into the aſſociation, and adviſed him againſt it. That in the month of January, a converſation paſſed between ſir Robert Fletcher and him, upon the ſubject of a general reſignation, when ſir Robert told him, that, ſhould a reſignation take place,

he thought it would be of no prejudice to thoſe officers who merited well, and might be an opportunity of weeding the army; and that ſir Robert always adviſed him againſt the meaſure.

Thus far the evidence in ſupport of the charge, by which it appears that ſir Robert Fletcher was well acquainted with the deſign of the general reſignation in the month of December or January; that he himſelf did propoſe it as a ſcheme by which the officers might recover the double batta; that he adviſed them to ſend him their commiſſions, and he would receive them at the beginning of a month; that they ſhould receive no pay for that month, but ſerve as volunteers till the pleaſure of the governor and council ſhould be known; and that the ſcheme ſhould take place before the next ſhips ſailed for Europe. It likewiſe appears by the evidence of Dunbar and Bevan, his aid de camp and major of brigade, that ſir Robert, about the twentieth of April, or between the eighteenth and twentieth, not only knew that the combination was completed, but that the officers of the firſt brigade had received favourable anſwers from thoſe of the other two brigades.

With regard to his having aſſerted that the four gentlemen in council from Madraſs, would join againſt lord Clive, although this article appears to have been well founded, it cannot be material to dwell upon it: his having abetted and promoted the general reſignation, or, in other words, his having excited ſedition in the army, was the main point of accuſation, and admitted of the moſt inconteſtable proof.

The extracts of the evidence in ſupport of the charge have been ſhort, though faithful; the material particulars of ſir Robert Fletcher's defence

fence alſo might be extracted in a very narrow compaſs. But that all imputation of partiality may be avoided, the whole of ſir Robert Fletcher's defence, as delivered in to the court martial, is here inſerted.

" Mr. Preſident, and Gentlemen,

" It is alledged againſt me, that, in a conver-
" ſation at captain Goddard's, the end of Decem-
" ber or beginning of January, I made uſe of
" many arguments to perſuade the officers to a
" general reſignation; and ſome of the evidences
" particularly depoſe, that I pointed out to them
" the diſſenſions amongſt the civilians, and ob-
" ſerved that the Madraſs counſellors were my
" friends, and would join againſt lord Clive. The
" appointment of the Madraſs gentlemen was not
" known at Calcutta till the ninth of January,
" and conſequently could not be known at Mong-
" hyr till the fifteenth or ſixteenth; it muſt
" have been ſeveral days afterwards before the
" diſſenſions among the civilians could have been
" heard of; and as to the Madraſs gentlemen
" joining againſt lord Clive, they did not take
" their ſeats till the twelfth of February. There
" is an evident contradiction, therefore, between
" part of theſe arguments, and the time they are
" ſaid to have been made uſe of; allowing how-
" ever that the evidences have only been miſta-
" ken in the time, and that I really made uſe of
" the arguments in queſtion, it muſt have been
" not in purſuance of my own opinion, but for
" the reaſons I ſhall hereafter explain, for I never
" apprehended, that the diſſenſions among the
" civilians could make any alterations in the
" reſolutions of the board, with regard to the
" allowances of the military; nor could I ever

" have been ſo abſurd; as really to have imagin-
" ed that the Madraſs gentlemen could poſſibly
" have ſuffered themſelves, in contradiction both
" to their duty and their intereſt, to be influenced
" in ſuch an affair by friendſhip for me: to which
" I may add, that I never wrote them on the ſub-
" ject, as I muſt neceſſarily have done, if I had
" really meant to influence them.

" The governor and council having thought
" proper to reduce the batta, loud complaints
" were made by the officers; various ſchemes
" were propoſed for the recovery of it; and,
" among others, a general reſignation was talked
" of in the month of January, not only at Mong-
" hyr, but (as I have been informed,) at Patna and
" Allahabad alſo, and even at Calcutta. When
" theſe rumours came to my hearing, I ſpoke to
" lieutenants Bevan, Dunbar, and Kyd, on the
" ſubject, and uſed my utmoſt endeavours to diſ-
" ſuade them from joining in ſuch a ſtep; not
" doubting, if I had ſucceeded with them, but
" that many others would have been induced to
" follow their example: and I obſerved to them,
" that ſuch officers as had the allowances attach-
" ed to double poſts, (which included adjutants,
" quarter-maſters, and ſeapoy ſubalterns) would
" more particularly incur the diſpleaſure of the
" governor and council; but all was in vain;
" they told me they were determined to reſign
" with the reſt. The ſame advice I often repeat-
" ed afterwards, but it was all to no purpoſe.
" Finding, therefore, that I could not prevail
" with thoſe gentlemen, who being in my family
" and enjoying double poſts, would be the leaſt
" affected with the reduction of the batta, and
" over whom I had more influence than over
" any others, and ſeeing to what a violent degree

" the

" the officers in general were exaſperated, I
" thought the beſt thing I could do for the public
" good, was to diſſemble my own opinion, to
" try to keep in their confidence till they had
" come to ſome final reſolution; and to moderate
" the rage with which they were actuated. To
" have endeavoured to ſtem the torrent would be
" productive of no other conſequence, than that
" they would have gone on in their own way,
" without letting me know any thing at all of the
" matter. I remembered the violence with which
" they had engaged, during the months of March,
" April, and May 1765, in an aſſociation for re-
" ſigning, on a much more trifling cauſe, (the
" affair of captain M'Pherſon) and at a time
" when the war with Sujah Dowla was un-
" finiſhed.

" As captain M'Pherſon's appointment to this
" eſtabliſhment, in a ſtation which another gen-
" tleman reſigned in order to make room for
" him, drove them to ſuch extremities; and as
" they perſevered in them, even after captain
" M'Pherſon had, for the ſake of peace, volun-
" tarily conſented to have his former appoint-
" ment annulled, and to come in youngeſt cap-
" tain; what might not have been expected from
" them in the preſent caſe, when they were de-
" prived of advantages which they had ever be-
" fore enjoyed; and when numbers of them were
" involved in debts, from which they had no
" proſpect of extricating themſelves, and were
" really reduced to much diſtreſs by the ſcanti-
" neſs of their allowances? Unreaſonable as that
" aſſociation was, it was a matter of great doubt,
" whether it would not have been carried on to
" the moſt dangerous lengths, had not lord Clive's
" arrival, the high opinion the officers in general

" entertained of him, and his particular influence " over ſeveral individuals, fortunately put a ſtop " to it. Thus convinced that it was really not in " my power to ſtop the officers in their career, I " at the ſame time thought their reſignation, if " carried on in ſo moderate a manner as not to " occaſion any diſturbance among the troops, " would rather be an advantage than a diſadvan- " tage to the ſervice.

" Immediately on my joining the army on this " eſtabliſhment, in October 1764, I remarked, " with much concern, the great want of order " and ſubordination amongſt the officers: my en- " deavours to effect a reformation, as far as lay " in my power, have been unintermitted; and it " is well known how continually I have complain- " ed of the trouble I met with from the obſtina- " cy and licentiouſneſs of ſome of them, and how " happy a circumſtance I thought it would be for " the good of the ſervice, if ſuch could be " got rid of. Finding admonitions uſeleſs, I " deemed it neceſſary to have recourſe to courts " martial, in order to enforce diſcipline in the " brigade which I commanded, and to prevent " the officers abſenting themſelves from their du- " ty: for this I received a check from my ſupe- " riors; and was informed by general Carnac, in " a letter he wrote to me the 6th of November, " that " he would have courts martial reſerved " for heinous crimes only, and ſuch as merited " exemplary puniſhment." My hands being thus " tied up, I began to deſpair of introducing the " diſcipline I ſo much wiſhed for; and therefore, " when the officers talked of reſigning, I comfort- " ed myſelf with the hopes that the ſtep, if car- " ried on with moderation, would at leaſt be pro- " ductive of one good conſequence; that it would

" be the means of weeding the army of thoſe gen-
" tlemen who moſt obſtructed the neceſſary re-
" formation. I doubted not but his lordſhip
" would think it requiſite to oppoſe with firmneſs
" the demands of the officers; and theſe, when
" they found they could not carry their point,
" would be glad to accept of their commiſſions
" again: they might wiſh to make their own
" terms; but as the ſole dependence of many of
" them was on the Company's ſervice, they muſt,
" in the end, be obliged to content themſelves
" with what terms they could get. While ſuch
" were my ſentiments, I was informed by lieu-
" tenant Kyd, that captain Goddard ſeemed a-
" verſe to join in the ſcheme of reſignation; and
" that his reaſon was ſuppoſed to be, his not hav-
" ing been ſo particularly conſulted on the occa-
" ſion, as from his rank in the ſervice he thought
" he had a right to expect. I expreſſed my ſur-
" priſe at his not being engaged in it; and ſaid, I
" imagined he would have been the foremoſt in
" all ſuch undertakings: and, to the beſt of my
" recollection, lieutenant Kyd at the ſame time
" obſerved to me, and I agreed with him in o-
" pinion, that it was not likely he would long per-
" ſiſt in his preſent reſolution. During the courſe
" of my acquaintance with him, I had ſo many
" proofs of the violence and fickleneſs of his diſ-
" poſition, that I made not the leaſt doubt but
" he would heartily join with the reſt of the offi-
" cers, the moment they paid him the compli-
" ment he thought his due. I remembered how
" readily he had entered into the former aſſocia-
" tion, in 1765; and I recollected having ſeen
" his name ſigned to it in letters moſt diſtinguiſh-
" ingly large, by way of ſhewing, I imagine, how
" much he gloried in the meaſure. Two or

" three

" three days after this converſation with lieutenant
" Kyd, I dined at captain Goddard's, in com-
" pany with captains Roper and Parker, and lieu-
" tenants Watts, Dunbar, Francis, Ironſide, and
" Mr. Bagot (I think, about the 20th or 25th of
" January); after dinner, captain Goddard ſud-
" denly addreſſed himſelf to me, in the follow-
" ing words, or words to the ſame purpoſe;
" What would you do if we were to leave you a-
" lone with the brigade? I anſwered, I did not
" think that would be a good ſcheme; that,
" however, there was a method for the recovery
" of their batta, but it was not my buſineſs to
" point it out: enquiry being made of me what
" that method was, I adviſed that they ſhould
" ſend in their commiſſions to me at the begin-
" ning of a month, and ſerve as volunteers, with-
" out pay, till the determination of the governor
" ſhould be known. Captain Parker here inter-
" rupted me, by calling out to captain Goddard,
" that " he ſmelt a majority:" Upon which he
" ſeemed much offended, and replied; That his
" not being conſulted, as oldeſt officer in the
" brigade, was rather ſlighting him. I then told
" captain Goddard, that I thought there was no-
" thing to fear; and that the officers would pro-
" bably carry their point, if they acted prudent-
" ly, and finiſhed their buſineſs before the ſailing
" of the Europe ſhips. I afterwards mentioned
" ſome other reaſons (but what I do not recollect)
" why it appeared likely that the batta might be
" reſtored, if the officers conſented to ſerve as
" volunteers; and I told them, that upon that
" condition I would accept of their commiſſions.
" This, to the beſt of my recollection, is an ex-
" act account of the converſation which then paſſ-
" ed; and when the company broke up, I deſired

" that

" that what I had there ſaid might go no farther;
" to which, I think, captain Goddard promiſed
" upon his honour it ſhould not. I have already
" mentioned the opinion which I had before con-
" ceived of the violence with which the officers
" were diſpoſed to act; and ſuch a queſtion as
" that which I have juſt related being ſo pub-
" licly put to me, gave me additional cauſe to
" be alarmed. Not doubting therefore the pro-
" priety of the reſolution I had formed, in con-
" ſequence of my not being able to diſſuade even
" the gentlemen of my own family from joining
" in any ſchemes of reſignation, I uſed my en-
" deavours to prevail upon them, inſtead of
" leaving me at once, to ſerve as volunteers till
" the pleaſure of the governor and council ſhould
" be known; concluding, that between the time
" of their lodging their commiſſions in my hands,
" and their receiving a final anſwer from the go-
" vernor and council, many of them would re-
" flect more ſeriouſly upon what they were about,
" and apply for their commiſſions again; and
" knowing that it would at leaſt give me time to
" take meaſures with the non-commiſſioned offi-
" cers, for preventing any diſturbance among the
" troops; and afford ſome leiſure to the gover-
" nor and council to ſupply their army, if neceſ-
" ſary, by giving commiſſions to free merchants,
" and by ſending for officers from the other pre-
" ſidencies.

" It was with theſe views only I ſaid at captain
" Goddard's, that the officers, if they would a-
" dopt the plan I propoſed, would probably carry
" their point. That ſuch was not my real opinion
" will appear beyond all contradiction, from my
" avowed ſentiments during the former aſſocia-
" tion, and what I ſaid to different gentlemen

" during the preſent one. As to my perſuading
" the officers to do whatever they were determin-
" ed on before the latter ſhips were diſpatched,
" I had ſeveral motives for doing it, with which I
" believe it will be needleſs for me to trouble the
" court. The moſt powerful one was, the con-
" ſideration of the profound tranquillity which
" then reigned throughout the provinces, and
" which there was no proſpect of an enemy to diſ-
" turb: I deemed it certain, that the officers
" would attempt the recovery of their batta, and
" thought there could not be a time leſs likely
" for ſuch an attempt to be productive of any
" miſchief to the public. My deſiring that what I
" had ſaid at captain Goddard's might go no farther,
" is inſinuated as a proof that I was ſenſible I had
" been acting in an unjuſtifiable manner; but it
" proceeded merely from recollecting a little that
" what I had ſaid, might, perhaps, if known, be
" miſconſtrued to my diſadvantage; and my pre-
" ſent ſituation, accuſed of mutiny for a matter
" in which I acted for the public good, has too
" well convinced me that I ought to have been
" more on my guard. After this, I heard no-
" thing more of the matter, but various unſet-
" tled reports, till about the 20th of February;
" when they finally determined to addreſs the
" governor and council: their repreſentation was
" accordingly forwarded about the 25th. From
" that time I was totally ignorant that any other
" ſchemes were carrying on, till about the 20th
" of April: lieutenant Dunbar then informed me,
" that the officers both of the firſt and third bri-
" gades had determined on reſigning their com-
" miſſions, and that he had agreed to the reſo-
" lution. I reprimanded him in the ſtrongeſt
" manner for entering into ſuch an aſſociation

" without

" without my knowledge, and contrary to my
" repeated advice. I told him how little pro-
" bability there was of the officers carrying their
" point; and uſed many arguments, both with
" him and many others with whom I had any
" influence, to diſſuade them from perſevering
" in it. As to captain Bevan, it was not in his
" power to give me much intelligence; having
" refuſed to join with them, he was not acquaint-
" ed with their proceedings, nor could adviſe me
" of any thing but by hearſay. After the 20th,
" it began to be reported that the officers of the
" ſecond brigade had engaged in a like aſſocia-
" tion; but I do not recollect any thing certain
" of them, till the 24th or 25th; when talking
" with a gentleman who had joined with the reſt,
" and pretending to be acquainted with every
" thing before, I learned from him that and many
" other circumſtances; particularly that the 1ſt
" of May was fixed upon for reſigning, and that
" the officers had ſome thoughts of ſerving as
" volunteers till the pleaſure of the governor and
" council ſhould be known. While this aſſoci-
" ation was carrying on, the officers concealed
" from me, with the utmoſt care, their meetings
" and all their meaſures; and were extremely en-
" raged when they found that I had received
" ſome information concerning them: a ſtrong
" proof that all I ſaid at captain Goddard's was
" not ſufficient to acquire me their confidence;
" and that they by no means looked upon me as
" a favourer of their proceedings.

" The particulars of what happened after this,
" it is needleſs for me to relate. It is well known
" with how much care I uſed every poſſible pre-
" caution to prevent any miſchief from happen-
" ing, when the officers ſhould leave their bri-

" gade:

" gade: at the ſame time, both by letter and " word of mouth, I conſtantly declared myſelf " perfectly ſecure on that head; and how active " I was in bringing back the European troops to " their duty, when on the 14th of May they took " to their arms, and ſeemed diſpoſed to follow " their officers, in conſequence (as they them- " ſelves declared) of their having been made to " believe that I was going with them.

" I will not trouble the court with any remarks " on the juſtneſs of my opinion, concerning the " ſpirit of violence with which the officers in ge- " neral were actuated, as ſo many inconteſtable " proofs of it have ſince appeared; but I muſt " beg leave to mention a few circumſtances, to " evince how true were my ſentiments of captain " Goddard, and how improbable is his aſſertion, " that he ſhould not have joined in the aſſociation " had I not perſuaded him to it. He made him- " ſelf a member of the ſecret committee, to car- " ry on a correſpondence with the other brigades, " and offered to carry off his battalion, if the reſt " would do the ſame; declaring, he was ſure it " would follow him all over India. About the " 12th of May, taking a ride in my chaiſe with " Mr. Bevan, I ſtopt at a tope (or grove) where " captain Goddard was; and in the courſe of " converſation, having expreſſed my opinion, that " lord Clive would never give up the point to " them; he anſwered by uſing ſome expreſſions " which I repeated to captain Bevan immediate- " ly, and which the more convinced me of his " violence. After theſe inſtances of his ungo- " vernable temper, let it be conſidered, whether " it is not much more likely that he was induced " to join with the reſt by his own diſpoſition, " than by the few arguments I uſed at his table;

" where

" where I ſhould not have ſaid any thing at all,
" had I not been apprehenſive of greater vio-
" lences, both from him and from the reſt of the
" officers; and had not he in a manner obliged
" me to do it, by aſking me the queſtion I have
" related. If he acted in purſuance of my ad-
" vice, why did he ſo carefully conceal from me
" all the meaſures that were carrying on in A-
" pril? And why did he ſtrictly enjoin ſerjeant
" Hardy, who was employed to carry ſome of
" their ſelect committee letters, to be particularly
" careful that I did not come to the knowledge
" of them? As to captain Goddard's aſſertion,
" that I pointed out to him in the chaiſe captain
" Bevan's readineſs to join in the aſſociation;
" and Mr. Bagot's, that at captain Goddard's
" table I told them Meſſieurs Bevan and Dunbar
" ſhould be the firſt to reſign, they are certainly
" miſtakes. I am very ſure that I never ſaid any
" ſuch thing: indeed it is not to be conceived
" that I ſhould; for I all along uſed my utmoſt
" endeavours to prevent thoſe gentlemen from
" having any concern in the meaſures that were
" taken; and I cannot but think it a little
" ſtrange, that Mr. Bagot, who ſat next to cap-
" tain Parker, at the lower end of two tables,
" whilſt captain Goddard and I ſat at the upper
" end, ſhould be the only perſon to remember
" ſo remarkable a circumſtance.

" Captain Goddard's aſſertion, relative to me-
" morials, muſt alſo be a miſtake. The conver-
" ſation in queſtion happened about the 20th or
" 25th of January; and the firſt memorial pre-
" ſented was dated about the 25th of February.
" I do not recollect indeed that memorials were
" at all mentioned; however it is a matter of no
" conſequence; for if they had, I ſhould certain-

" ly

"ly have adviſed againſt them; as I concluded "that lord Clive and the council would not re- "peal their reſolution; and imagined the officers "who ſeemed determined upon the recovery of "the batta, would only be exaſperated the "more.

"Captain Goddard muſt alſo be miſtaken in "what he mentioned of my adviſing the ſcheme "to be put into execution before the next ſhips "ſailed, as their carrying home accounts of the "batta being reduced would ſtrengthen his lord- "ſhip's intereſt ſo much, that it would be im- "poſſible to attempt the recovery of it afterwards. "The Grenville and Kent, which carried the news "of the reduction of the batta, were diſpatched "the 29th of January, and it was thought would "have been diſpatched much ſooner; ſo that it "was impoſſible for any ſcheme to have been put "in execution in time. To this I may add, "that I can bring proofs, if neceſſary, that I "have not been actuated with that ſpirit of party "which captain Goddard ſeems to inſinuate. "I am aſtoniſhed at captain Goddard's aſſerting, "that he wanted to make known the circum- "ſtances of his preſent depoſition, to lord Clive "and general Carnac, but was prevented by be- "ing ordered away from Monghyr. After the "converſation which I have already mentioned "to have paſſed between us, the 12th or 13th of "May, he told me he intended going to Patna: "being very glad to get rid of him, I encouraged "him in his intention, and adviſed him to go "that very evening; ſoon after leaving him, I "met captain Pearſon walking with another gen- "tleman, and told him I ſhould ſend orders to "major Champion, to appoint him to the com- "mand of captain Goddard's battalion. To the

"beſt

" beſt of my recollection, while I was talking to
" captain Pearſon, captain Goddard came gal-
" loping up, and ſaid he had altered his mind,
" and would not go to Patna; I told him he was
" very fickle, and then proceeded on to Monghyr.
" In the evening he came into the fort, in con-
" tradiction to expreſs orders, which had been
" given out, that no officer ſhould leave the de-
" tachment. Apprehending he was come with
" ſome bad deſign, I placed hircarahs (or ſpies)
" upon him, to give me intelligence what he was
" about; and ſome time afterwards, finding he
" did not go out of the fort of his own accord,
" I ſent captain Smith to order him out. The
" next morning, in conſequence of directions I
" had received from lord Clive, to ſend down
" to Calcutta ſuch of the captains as had been
" moſt active, I ordered captain Goddard and
" five other officers to prepare themſelves to ſet
" out for Calcutta at five o'clock in the after-
" noon; an hour or two afterwards I received
" another letter from lord Clive, " hoping the
" officers would remain on duty till his arrival;"
" whereupon I immediately wrote a letter to cap-
" tain Goddard and the other officers, requeſting
" they would ſtay till his lordſhip's arrival, which
" I aſſured them would be the next day. I ſoon
" after met captain Goddard in one of the ſquares,
" engaged in altercation with captain Stainforth,
" whom he accuſed of intending to ſtay behind
" the reſt of the officers: after ſome other con-
" verſation, I aſked him whether he had ſhewn my
" letter to the officers; he told me that I ſhould
" ſoon have an anſwer to it. Some time after,
" while I was ſitting at dinner, he came to me
" with captain-lieutenant Skinner; I aſked them
" if the officers intended complying with my re-

" queſt; captain Skinner told me that he be-
" lieved they would; upon which captain God-
" dard immediately ſaid to him, " anſwer for
" yourſelf, I do not believe they will." I aſked
" him, who would not? He replied, " captain
" Goddard will not." I have ſince been inform-
" ed, that at the meeting that was held to con-
" ſider of it, he declared, that if no body elſe
" would, he would go alone.

" Theſe circumſtances I have mentioned thus
" particularly, in order to ſhew how little foun-
" dation there is for his aſſerting, that he was pre-
" vented from informing lord Clive, &c. by be-
" ing ordered away from Monghyr.

" As to my expreſſing my ſurprize, that an
" officer of captain Goddard's ſpirit did not join
" in the reſignation, I do not recollect ſuch an
" expreſſion was made uſe of by me at the con-
" verſation held at captain Goddard's tent.

" It is very true, that about the 30th of April
" I told captain Goddard that I knew of all the
" meetings of the officers, and what paſſed at
" them. Some particulars came to my know-
" ledge, as I have already related, about the 24th
" or 25th of April, and ſome about the 27th.
" However, I have ſince learned, there were ma-
" ny other circumſtances with which I was then
" unacquainted.

" Whether captain Nowlan ever made the
" ſpeech which Mr. Watts mentions, I do not
" know, but I am certain that I never heard
" him.

" I do not recollect that lieutenant Dunbar ever
" informed me, before he went to Patna, of more
" than one meeting, and that was in the month
" of January.

" There

" There is one circumſtance I muſt take the " liberty of mentioning, by way of proof that I " have the good of the ſervice at heart, and am " not capable of adviſing any meaſure detrimental " to it, to gratify my private purpoſes. I offer- " ed to pay out of my own pocket the penalty " bonds of ſix gentlemen, captain Stainforth, " lieutenant Shrimpton, Mr. M'Pherſon, Dunbar, " Kyd, and enſign Patten, amounting to 24,000 " rupees, in order to induce them to quit the aſ- " ſociation, although I was at the ſame time ſen- " ſible of its being very uncertain, whether or " not thoſe gentlemen would ever be able to re- " pay me.

" I am ſorry to have troubled the court with " ſo long a detail, nor ſhould I have done it, had " not I judged it neceſſary, in order to ſhew how " much the whole tenor of my conduct contra- " dicts the charge which has been brought againſt " me. I have only one thing more to remark; " that in the converſation which paſſed at captain " Goddard's, I never adviſed any aſſociation, " much leſs ſuch violent ones as afterwards took " place; and that I have often expreſſed my opi- " nion, that the officers who were determined up- " on reſigning, ſhould have ſent in their com- " miſſions one by one, inſtead of combining to do " it in a body.

" Can officers in the company's ſervice, not " bound by any contract, legally reſign their " commiſſions without the conſent of the gover- " nor and council, or are they guilty of mutiny " in doing it? If they are not, can a perſon be " guilty of mutiny in only adviſing them to it?— " Our government itſelf, I think, has in a great " degree acknowledged, that the officers might " reſign their commiſſions, by reſolving to oblige

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" them in future to ſign contracts, and by put-
" ting the reſignation of the officers of the firſt
" brigade in public orders at the preſidency.

" But I will dwell no longer on this ſubject,
" of which you, gentlemen, muſt be the beſt
" judges, as I am very happy in the clearneſs of
" my own conſcience, and in confidence that I
" ſhall be able to juſtify my own conduct, with-
" out having recourſe to ſuch arguments, by the
" teſtimony of the witneſſes, which I now beg
" leave to call upon."

It now remains to be ſhewn how far ſir Robert Fletcher hath, by the teſtimony of witneſſes, juſtified his conduct.

Mr. George Vanſittart, factor in the company's ſervice, being ſworn by the court, and queſtioned by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, that during the time he was with ſir Robert Fletcher, in the months of January and February 1765, he often heard him complain of the irregularities of many of the officers, and their inattention to their duty, and that he has frequently repeated the ſame complaints in letters, which he has received from him in the courſe of the year 1765. As to wiſhing to get rid of ſome of them for the public good, he was certain that ſir Robert Fletcher often ſpoke of the great plague and trouble he met with from ſome of them, and the difficulty of getting them to comply with their duty; and that he underſtood, from the general tenor of ſir Robert Fletcher's words and letters, that he did wiſh to get rid of ſome of them, that he might the more eaſily eſtabliſh a proper diſcipline: that as to the late aſſociation, he never wrote to him for or againſt it: that with regard to the aſſociation in 1765, he wrote to him, on the 14th of May, that he entirely diſapproved of it, and that the go-

vernor and council muſt either ſupport their authority or give it up: that with regard to the civil diſputes, he received a letter, from ſir Robert Fletcher in November 1765, mentioning his having heard of the diſputes at the board, and wiſhing that all diſſenſions were put an end to there, for the public good, as peace and unanimity were eſtabliſhed at home; and that this was the only letter he remembered to have received from ſir Robert Fletcher on civil diſputes: that he did not recollect to have heard captain Goddard declare his opinion of the reduction of the batta; he remembered a few days after his arrival at Calcutta, his ſpeaking of the officers ſerving as volunteers, as a meaſure that had obſtructed their ſucceſs.

Captain Bevan being queſtioned by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, that ſir Robert Fletcher, before he dined at captain Goddard's, adviſed him (Bevan) in the ſtrongeſt terms, not to be concerned in the reſignation: that in December, previous to this advice, he aſſured him that neither he, nor the other gentlemen of his family, lieutenants Kyd and Dunbar, ſhould loſe by the reduction of the batta, as he would take care to make it up to them another way: that, notwithſtanding all ſir Robert Fletcher's arguments againſt a reſignation, he believes he told him, in the month of January, when ſir Robert came into his room, that he could not but reſign with the reſt: that ſir Robert Fletcher has frequently complained of the irregularities of the officers; and to the beſt of his knowledge, he, ſir Robert Fletcher, has wiſhed to get rid of ſome of them, in hopes of reforming the reſt: that he dined with lieutenant Shrimpton the ſame day ſir Robert Fletcher dined with captain Goddard, in January; that he did not remember to have heard

mention made of an intention of the officers to ſerve as volunteers, before that day: that in January, when the officers of the firſt brigade complained of the reduction of the batta, he imagined they ſeemed determined at all events to recover it or quit the ſervice: that to the beſt of his recollection, when it came to ſir Robert's knowledge, in April, that the officers had engaged in an aſſociation, he expreſſed his ſurpriſe at its being carried on without his knowledge; and that he believed ſir Robert then expreſſed his firm belief that a reſignation of commiſſions had been entirely laid aſide: that, a day or two after the time when he (Bevan) was applied to for his commiſſion, he thinks ſir Robert Fletcher might have ſaid, that he could not then believe the reſignation would actually take place: that, towards the latter end of April, he heard ſir Robert Fletcher uſe arguments with lieutenant Knott, to prevent his joining with the reſt: that on the morning when ſir Robert Fletcher heard that the officers had written to Madraſs, to prevent thoſe of that eſtabliſhment from coming to Bengal, he immediately wrote a letter to his brother, and forwarded it to lord Clive.

The original letter, which was laid before the court, was as follows:

"My dear brother,

"Having been this moment informed, that "letters are written to Madraſs by ſome of our "military gentry, adviſing thoſe of your eſta- "bliſhment, that an aſſociation will certainly take "place here, for reſigning all commiſſions, un- "leſs the double batta be reſtored, and repre- "ſenting to you the hardſhips of the ſervice in "ſuch ſtrong colours as to prevent, if poſſible, your

" your complying with orders that may be ſent
" for the removal of ſome of your officers hither,
" I muſt entreat you by every tie, public as well
" as private, to exert yourſelf in rendering ſuch
" letters ineffectual, and to prevail on your
" brother officers to fly to Bengal with the
" ſame zeal and chearfulneſs as if you were
" taking a voyage for the defence of your native
" country.

I remain, &c.

" Monghyr,
" 3d May, 1766. (ſigned) Rob. Fletcher."

Captain Bevan, the queſtions being ſtill put to him by ſir Robert Fletcher, farther depoſed, that he believed ſir Robert Fletcher told him, on the 24th or 25th of April, that he had received private intelligence from a gentleman, that the officers were to deliver in their commiſſions to him on the firſt day of May; that a day or two before the reſignation, ſir Robert Fletcher told him, he had heard of an intended mutiny, but could give no credit to the report; that after the affair of the reſignation became public, he often heard ſir Robert Fletcher ſay, it was his firm belief that lord Clive would never give up the point to the officers; that he believed ſir Robert Fletcher, after the reſignation took place, mentioned to him, that lord Clive had got a fine opportunity of weeding the army, which would be of great advantage to the ſervice; that on the 12th or 13th of May, when ſir Robert Fletcher, and he (Bevan) rode out in the chaiſe, they ſtopt in the tope (or grove) where captain Goddard was encamped, that ſir Robert Fletcher talked to captain Goddard in private about eight or nine minutes, and immediately returned to his chaiſe; ſoon after which, to the beſt of his recollection, he informed

formed him, that captain Goddard had aſked leave to go to Patna, to avoid, as he ſaid, ſeeing lord Clive and general Carnac; and that he had not only granted it, but urged his ſetting off that very evening; that he alſo ſaid he was happy in the thought of having captain Pearſon at the head of his battalion; that when captain Goddard came into the fort that night, contrary to orders, ſir Robert Fletcher expreſſed his fears that he would be about no good, and ordered him (Bevan) to place hircarrahs (or ſpies) over him; that he remembers ſir Robert Fletcher ſoon after ſent captain Smith, he believed, with orders to captain Goddard to leave the garriſon; and that he, that night, ſent ſecret orders to major Champion to be watchful over captain Goddard's battalion; that he had often heard ſir Robert Fletcher, in January, and afterwards, ſpeak of captain Goddard in very unfavourable terms; and he believes that, towards the latter end of April, ſir Robert Fletcher gave it as his opinion, that lord Clive would find no difficulty in getting as many officers to return to the ſervice as he pleaſed; that on the 14th (May) in the morning, after ſir Robert Fletcher had ordered captain Goddard and ſome other officers to ſet off for Calcutta by five o'clock that evening, he wrote a letter to captain Goddard and the reſt of the officers of the brigade, requeſting it as a favour they would remain till next day, when he aſſured them lord Clive would arrive; that he believes when ſir Robert Fletcher, in the month of January, adviſed him againſt joining in the reſignation, he told him, that thoſe in particular who enjoyed double poſts would incur the diſpleaſure of the governor and council, and not be re-admitted into the ſervice; that, to the beſt of his

his knowledge, after the firſt of May, when the officers had given in their commiſſions to ſir Robert Fletcher, he (ſir Robert) expreſſed his ſurprize that they had ſent them in a bundle, obſerving, that he expected every one would have given in his own, or words to that purpoſe.

The honourable Charles Stuart, writer in the Company's ſervice, being ſworn, and the queſtion being put by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, that he had often heard ſir Robert Fletcher, particularly in November 1765, complain of the licentiouſneſs of many of the officers, and wiſh to get rid of them, in hopes thereby of eſtabliſhing diſcipline and good order among the reſt.

Captain Henry Watſon, quarter-maſter-general, being ſworn, and the queſtion being put by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, that he often heard ſir Robert Fletcher complain of the irregularities of the officers of the firſt brigade, and their inattention to his orders; that this was a little while before the aſſociation; and that he even heard him mention the ſame ſome months before that time; but that he cannot charge his memory with ſir Robert Fletcher's having wiſhed to get rid of ſome of them, in hopes thereby of eſtabliſhing diſcipline among the reſt.

Mr. James Dunbar being recalled into court, and the queſtions being put by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, that whilſt he acted as ſir Robert Fletcher's aid de camp, ſir Robert often expreſſed his uneaſineſs to him on account of the irregularities of ſome of the officers of the firſt brigade; that he frequently ſaid he was determined at all riſques, for his own peace and quiet, to effect a reformation, or words to that purpoſe; that upon receipt of a letter from general Carnac, regarding

garding courts-martial, he ſaid he was made uneaſy by it, or words to that purpoſe; that to the beſt of his recollection, in the month of January, before he dined with ſir Robert Fletcher at captain Goddard's, ſir Robert told him, if thoſe who held double poſts reſigned the ſervice, they in particular would not be re-admitted, or words to that purpoſe; that, to the beſt of his recollection, he told ſir Robert Fletcher he could not ſubſiſt without his double poſt, or words to that effect; that when he told ſir Robert Fletcher, in the month of April, that he had agreed to join with the reſt of the officers engaged in the reſignation, ſir Robert reprimanded him for ſo doing in the ſtrongeſt terms, and told him, that he expected a very different conduct both from him and Mr. Kyd, or words to that purpoſe; that to the beſt of his recollection, the day he dined in captain Goddard's tent with ſir Robert Fletcher, he ſat next to captain Roper, who ſat next to captain Goddard; that with regard to the converſation between captain Goddard and ſir Robert Fletcher, the firſt thing that paſſed was captain Goddard's aſking ſir Robert Fletcher what he would do, ſuppoſing all the officers of the brigade were to leave him; to which ſir Robert Fletcher replied, that would not be a good ſcheme. He ſaid, better give in your commiſſions to me, and ſerve as volunteers till the pleaſure of the governor and council is known; and that then, a little after this, ſir Robert Fletcher ſaid, if the officers reſigned before the ſhips ſailed for Europe, it was probable they would carry their point, or words to that purpoſe; that he underſtood from captain Goddard's converſation, that he thought himſelf ill uſed in not being conſulted on the occaſion, he being the oldeſt captain preſent; that,

to

to the beſt of his recollection, he heard ſir Robert Fletcher, in January, give lieutenant Kyd advice againſt reſigning the ſervice; that he was preſent at a meeting of the officers, when upon ſir Robert Fletcher and captain Bevan paſſing through the ſquare, where it was held, the doors were immediately ſhut, and the lights put out, to prevent its coming to ſir Robert Fletcher's knowledge.

Mr. James Watts being recalled into court, and the queſtions being put by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, that he heard captain Goddard ſay, as a reaſon for his not joining ſooner with the officers in the reſignation, that he thought himſelf ſlighted, in not being particularly conſulted, as the oldeſt officer, or words to that purpoſe; that he has heard captain Goddard make uſe of ſome ſuch expreſſions as theſe; viz. that it was the officers own fault if they did not carry their point; that he has heard ſome officers ſay, before the firſt of May, but he cannot remember who, that they were apprehenſive ſir Robert Fletcher would make them priſoners, and not accept of their commiſſions; that, ſuppoſing the public officers of ſir Robert Fletcher's family had not entered into the aſſociation, he cannot pretend to ſay what effect their example might have had upon him before he had engaged himſelf in the aſſociation; but after he had, neither their example, nor what ſir Robert Fletcher could have ſaid, would have prevented him from adhering to his engagements; and that, during the time he was at Monghyr, ſir Robert Fletcher dined with him once only.

William Patton, enſign in the firſt regiment of infantry, being duly ſworn, and queſtioned by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, that if the public officers

officers of ſir Robert Fletcher's family had not entered into the aſſociation, this deponent would not have engaged in it; that in the beginning of January, when the officers firſt had a meeting, the reaſon given by the officers why captain Goddard did not join with the reſt was, that he (Goddard) thought he ſhould have been particularly conſulted; and as he was the oldeſt captain, he expected the reſt of the officers ſhould have met at his tent; that ſir Robert Fletcher ſent for this deponent about the 22d of April, and adviſed him to have no concern in the aſſociation; that ſir Robert Fletcher propoſed to advance him 500 l. in order that he might pay the penalty bond, provided he would diſengage himſelf from the aſſociation; but that he could not accept the offer, as he conſidered himſelf as farther bound; that when the officers were carrying on the ſcheme of reſignation, they uſed much precaution to keep it from the knowledge of ſir Robert Fletcher; that towards the end of April, when the officers firſt knew their proceedings had come to the knowledge of ſir Robert Fletcher, they ſeemed afraid of being ſent down to Calcutta, and expreſſed great reſentment againſt the informer; that on the 14th of May, when the officers were deliberating upon ſir Robert Fletcher's letter, requeſting they would ſtay till the arrival of lord Clive, this deponent heard captain Goddard ſay, that, though all the officers ſhould agree to ſtay, he would go away alone; and that when ſir Robert Fletcher adviſed him againſt reſigning, he (ſir Robert) told him, that as he enjoyed a double allowance, as a ſeapoy officer, he would, by quitting the ſervice, ſo far incur the diſpleaſure of the governor and council as never to be admitted into the ſervice again, or words to that effect.

Allen

Allen M'Pherſon, lieutenant in the firſt regiment of infantry on the Bengal eſtabliſhment, being duly ſworn, and queſtioned by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, that the officers ſeemed determined to have the batta reſtored, or quit the ſervice; that he thinks, if the public officers of ſir Robert Fletcher's family had not entered into the aſſociation, he ſhould not have engaged in it; that ſir Robert Fletcher ſent to this deponent, between the 20th and 25th of April, and adviſed him to have no concern in the aſſociation; and that ſir Robert ſent for him again in May, and adviſed him by no means to ſuffer this deponent's brother to leave the brigade, and at the ſame time offered to advance him money to pay the 500 l penalty which he would be liable to incur by retracting.

John Shrimpton, lieutenant in the firſt regiment of infantry on the Bengal eſtabliſhment, being duly ſworn, and queſtioned by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, that about the 20th or 25th of April, ſir Robert Fletcher ſent for this deponent, and aſſured him, that it was his (ſir Robert's) opinion, lord Clive would never give way to the combination of the officers; and that to the beſt of his knowledge, he told ſir Robert Fletcher, that he could not retract at that time; and that in the beginning of May ſir Robert Fletcher offered to advance this deponent money to pay the 500 l. penalty, which he was liable to incur by retracting.

Captain Frederick Thomas Smith, being recalled into court, and the queſtions being put to him by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, that, during the time he was at Monghyr (between the 11th and 17th of May, 1766) ſir Robert Fletcher's conduct, in regard to his preventing and quelling diſturbances among the officers and ſoldiers, was,

in

in every reſpect, becoming the character of a good officer; that ſir Robert Fletcher ſent this deponent with poſitive orders to turn captain Goddard out of the fort at Monghyr; and that on the 14th of May, about dinner time, ſir Robert Fletcher ſhewed captain Goddard lord Clive's letter, requeſting the officers to ſtay till his lordſhip's arrival at Monghyr.

Moſes Crawford, late ſurgeon's aſſiſtant, now enſign in the firſt regiment of infantry on the Bengal eſtabliſhment, being duly ſworn, and queſtioned by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, That ſir Robert ſent for this deponent twice, and made uſe of ſeveral arguments with him to accept a commiſſion, which at laſt induced him to enter into the army; and that ſir Robert Fletcher appointed two ſergeants to act as officers at the ſame time.

Philip Muſkard, lieutenant fire-worker in the firſt company of artillery, being ſworn, and the queſtions put to him by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, That ſir Robert Fletcher ſent for this deponent on the 14th of May, at which time he was a conductor of artillery; and alſo ſent for Mr. Raſhfield, another conductor, and offered to appoint them to act as officers.

James Crawford, lieutenant in the fourth battalion of ſeapoys, being ſworn, depoſed, That on the 13th of May he received orders from ſir Robert Fletcher, dated the 10th or 11th of May, to join the brigade with all poſſible expedition; and that he began his march on the 13th (May) in conſequence of orders from lord Clive, dated the 9th of May; that he arrived at Monghyr, which is between 50 and 60 coſs diſtant from his poſt, on the 17th; and that, upon his arrival, ſir Robert Fletcher uſed many arguments with him to continue in the ſervice.

George

George Brown, lieutenant in the firſt regiment of infantry, being ſworn, depoſed, That on the 1ſt of May he was ſtationed at Tarrapore, and that he received orders from ſir Robert Fletcher for recalling him to Monghyr; that he arrived there on the 16th or 17th of May, and that upon his arrival, ſir Robert Fletcher uſed many arguments with him to remain in the ſervice.

Alexander Hardy, late enſign in the firſt, now of the ſecond regiment of infantry on the Bengal eſtabliſhment, being ſworn, and queſtioned, by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, That he copied a letter for captain Goddard, addreſſed to the officers of the third brigade; and that captain Goddard enjoined him to conceal the contents of it from every one, particularly from the colonel; and being aſked, who did he ſuppoſe captain Goddard meant by the colonel? he replied, lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher.

Thomas Carnegie, ſurgeon to the Patna factory, being ſworn, and the queſtions put to him by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, that about the latter end of January, to the beſt of his remembrance, he heard it publicly talked of at Calcutta, that the officers intended to reſign and ſend down their commiſſions.

Philip Daniel, ſergeant in lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher's company in the firſt regiment of infantry on the Bengal eſtabliſhment, being ſworn, and queſtioned by ſir Robert Fletcher, depoſed, That on the 14th of May he obſerved a great part of the regiment got under arms, in a tumultuous, mutinous manner; and ſoon after, ſir Robert Fletcher appeared on the parade, and demanded the reaſon of their unſoldierlike behaviour: he told them, that it was his deſire they ſhould return to their barracks; and aſſured them,

that if every officer of the brigade ſhould leave them, he would ſtay with them; upon which the regiment did return to their barracks: the deponent further ſaid, he has heard a good many of the regiment, he believes the major part of them, ſay, that if it was not for the particular regard they had for the colonel, they would every man have gone away with the officers; and that on the 14th of May two volunteers, Meſſ. Haldam and Skinner, were appointed to act as officers.

The ſum of theſe evidences is, That ſir Robert Fletcher had frequently complained of the irregularities of many of the officers, and their inattention to their duty—that he wiſhed to get rid of ſome of them, in order to eſtabliſh a proper diſcipline;—that before the time of his dining with captain Goddard in January, he adviſed his major of brigade (captain Bevan) not to be concerned in the reſignation; and in April following, expreſſed his ſurpriſe, that an aſſociation was formed; his expectation being, that the officers would each deliver in his own commiſſion, and not reſign in a body—that upon captain Goddard's aſking him, what he would do if all the officers of the brigade were to leave him? he replied, that would not be a good ſcheme—that they had better give in their commiſſions to him, and ſerve as volunteers till the pleaſure of the governor and council ſhould be known—and that, if they reſigned before the ſhips ſailed for Europe, it was probable they would carry their point—that he uſed arguments with ſeveral of his officers to diſſuade them from reſigning—that in order to prevail upon Meſſ. Patton, M'Pherſon, and Shrimpton, to continue in the ſervice, and to indemnify them for relinquiſhing the aſſociation, he offered to advance to each of them the 500 l. which

which they were ſeverally liable to pay for retracting—that on the third of May he wrote a ſtrong letter to his brother on the coaſt, conjuring him to counteract the efforts making by the Bengal officers, to prevent thoſe of Madraſs from coming to ſupply their places—that upon the 14th May, in conſequence of a letter from lord Clive, he deſired the officers to do duty till next day, when his lordſhip would arrive—and that, when the European regiment (the 14th May) got under arms in a tumultuous manner, he exerted himſelf to preſerve diſcipline and prevent a mutiny.

Sir Robert Fletcher having acquainted the court, That he had no more evidences to call upon, the judge advocate replied, "That moſt "of the points which had been endeavoured to "be proved againſt ſir Robert Fletcher remaining uncontroverted, he did not trouble the "court with the examination of any evidences in "reply. He only begged leave to obſerve, "That it appeared to the court, upon the joint "evidence of captain Goddard, captain Roper, "captain Bevan, Mr. Dunbar, and other evi"dences, that a ſcheme of reſignation of com"miſſions came to the knowledge of ſir Robert "Fletcher in the month of January laſt; and that "ſir Robert Fletcher had not made it appear to "the court, that he, at that or any other period "of time, made lord Clive, or general Carnac, "or the governor and council, acquainted there"with." Upon which ſir Robert Fletcher made the following obſervation.

"As I was not charged, in the courſe of the "evidence againſt me, with neglecting to give "due information to lord Clive, &c. in January "laſt, I did not think it at all neceſſary to trouble

" the court on that head. In anſwer to the firſt
" part of the judge advocate's obſervation, I
" muſt remark, that no ſcheme of reſignation
" came to my knowledge in January laſt; nor
" was any ſcheme formed. Mr. Dunbar did
" mention ſomething to me of a meeting of the
" officers in January laſt; but at that meeting
" not a word of reſignation was mentioned, nor
" any ſcheme whatſoever propoſed. In this ſtate
" of uncertainty did things continue until a day
" or two after I dined with captain Goddard,
" when I was aſſured that the officers had deter-
" mined to addreſs the governor and council,
" and it was my wiſhes that ſo difagreeable a ſub-
" ject ſhould go from themſelves, rather than
" from me, to his lordſhip: as a proof of which,
" I adviſed their ſending their addreſs immedi-
" ately (and not through me) to the general.
" The general's anſwer was in the like manner
" addreſſed to them. Had the talk of a general
" reſignation been confined to Monghyr, I ſhould
" certainly have written to his lordſhip as ſoon
" as I heard of it; but at that very time, the
" ſubject was publicly ſpoken of every where
" elſe; and as I was then well informed, parti-
" cularly in Calcutta, and could not poſſibly eſcape
" his lordſhip's ears. I thought it therefore much
" better for me to remain quiet, and keep in their
" confidence till they had come to ſome deter-
" mination, than prematurely to trouble his
" lordſhip with rumours which I knew were pub-
" lic, and for which I imagined I ſhould not
" have been thanked, particularly as I had but
" a ſhort time before got a ſevere reprimand from
" the committee, for writing on the ſubject of
" the batta of the commanding officers of the
" brigades; and, as a farther proof of the juſt-

" neſs of that opinion, I ſhall obſerve to the
" court, that when his lordſhip was at Chuprah,
" I mentioned in one of my letters to him, that
" the officers of the regiment complained again
" of the inſufficiency of their allowance, for
" which I got another reprimand, and was told,
" that he was ſurpriſed at my mentioning a ſub-
" ject which I knew the board was determined
" to diſcourage. It was not till very near the
" time of my dining with captain Goddard that
" I gave over hopes of diſſuading my own fami-
" ly, by which I ſhould have brought the whole
" to nothing; and it was my reſolution to have
" given lord Clive an account of that day's con-
" verſation immediately, had I not found, that,
" inſtead of adopting the ſcheme which I propoſ-
" ed, they had determined to addreſs the board.
" About the 24th of April I informed his lord-
" ſhip, that the officers had three months before
" talked of reſigning, if their batta was not re-
" ſtored; and his lordſhip at that time entirely
" approved of my conduct. In like manner,
" when the officers determination to reſign came
" to my knowledge, about the 20th of April, I
" firſt of all uſed my endeavours to break it off
" myſelf, by perſuading all, over whom I had
" the leaſt influence, not to perſiſt in it, till find-
" ing I could not ſucceed, and being aſſured by
" the additional information which I received
" the 24th or 25th, that they would certainly put
" their ſcheme in execution, I then gave imme-
" diate notice to his lordſhip. I muſt remark,
" that in one of my letters to his lordſhip, be-
" fore his arrival at Monghyr, about the 12th
" or 13th of May, I did inform him that I had
" once pretended to enter into ſome of their in-
" tended meaſures, in order to gain their confi-

" dence, and mentioned it again to him at " Monghyr. I farther beg leave to inform the " court, that lord Clive found it needleſs to an- " ſwer my letter of the 12th or 13th of May, be- " cauſe his lordſhip expected to be in Monghyr " himſelf the next day. On the 15th, when his " lordſhip arrived, I, among other remarks, re- " peated to his lordſhip what I mentioned in that " letter, and his lordſhip expreſſed himſelf en- " tirely ſatisfied with my conduct.

" The court then enquired of lieutenant-co- " lonel ſir Robert Fletcher, if he could produce " any proofs of lord Clive's having expreſſed " himſelf entirely ſatisfied with his conduct; to " which ſir Robert Fletcher replied, no he could " not, as it was a private converſation between " lord Clive and him; and this did not occur to " ſir Robert Fletcher, until the preſident aſked " him if lord Clive anſwered his letter of the 12th " or 13th of May.

" Sir Robert Fletcher then begged leave to " lay before the court, an extract from his let- " ter to lord Clive *, dated the 25th of April, " together with his lordſhip's anſwer †, and de- " ſired that the court would admit of their being " entered upon the face of the proceedings; " which being agreed to, they were entered ac- " cordingly."

It has not in the courſe of our narrative appeared, nor have we ſeen it on the trial attempted to be proved, that ſir Robert Fletcher gave any information to his colonel, or to the commander in chief (previous to his letter to lord Clive, dated the 25th of April) that the officers had entered into a general combination to reſign

* See Appendix, No. 6. † Ditto, No. 9.

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their commiſſions; and even that letter was not written till colonel ſir Robert Barker had taken the alarm, as appears by his letter to ſir Robert Fletcher of the 21ſt (Appendix No. 7.)

Sir Robert Fletcher in his letter of the 14th of May tells lord Clive, that ſo long ago as January he heard, "The whole were to form a plan "of quitting the brigades without giving any "warning." This ſurely was a combination of a very alarming nature, and the intelligence ought to have been communicated to the governor; but ſir Robert did not communicate it even to his colonel. In the month of June, when he finds that reports are circulated to his prejudice, he endeavours, by his letter to lord Clive, dated the 22d, to invalidate thoſe reports; and, amongſt other arguments, in vindication of his conduct, advances the following: "As for "the combination itſelf, it was near the end of "April before I knew any thing of it." How are theſe palpable contradictions to be reconciled? Let us look into his trial; let us read his defence; there we find them multiplied: for when the judge advocate obſerved to the court, that upon the joint evidence of captain Goddard, captain Roper, captain Bevan, Mr. Dunbar, and others, that a ſcheme of reſignation of commiſſions came to the knowledge of ſir Robert Fletcher in the month of January; and that ſir Robert Fletcher had not made it appear to the court, that he, at that or any other period of time, made lord Clive, general Carnac, or the governor and council, acquainted therewith, ſir Robert Fletcher replied, "I muſt remark that "no ſcheme of reſignation came to my know-'led ge in January laſt, nor was any ſcheme then 'formed. Mr. Dunbar did mention ſomething

" to me of a meeting of the officers in January " laſt; but at that meeting not a word of reſig- " nation was mentioned, nor any ſcheme what- " ever propoſed." The moſt favourable interpretation that can be put upon theſe contradictions is very equivocal; viz. that he heard in January, the whole were to form a plan of quitting the brigades, without giving any warning; but that he did not hear the plan was actually formed in January; and farther, that no ſcheme of reſignation came to his knowledge, although the intention to form a plan of quitting the brigades without giving any warning, did come to his knowledge.—To reconcile this ſeeming contradiction, we muſt ſuppoſe ſir Robert Fletcher means to ſet up a diſtinction between a ſcheme of reſignation, and a ſcheme of deſertion; the former he did not hear of, the latter he did. But Mr. Dunbar, his own aid de camp, has poſitively ſworn, " that in the month of January, a con- " verſation did paſs between ſir Robert Fletcher " and him, upon the ſubject of a general reſig- " nation;" and his major of brigade, captain Bevan, has poſitively ſworn, " that about the lat- " ter end of December, or beginning of January, " ſir Robert Fletcher came into his room (he " then keeping his bed), and told him that he " heard the officers intended to reſign their com- " miſſions, on account of the batta being re- " duced."

That a general reſignation of the officers of the firſt brigade was the ſubject of converſation, at captain Goddard's table, in January; that ſir Robert Fletcher diſcourſed with them upon the ſubject, and propoſed to them a ſcheme for conducting it, has been proved by the depoſitions of the whole company: ſir Robert himſelf acknowledges

ledges as much, and likewiſe that he knew of the intention of the officers, even before that day. His words are theſe. " It was not till very near " the time of my dining with captain Goddard " (the latter end of December or beginning of " January) that I gave over hopes of diſſuading " my own family, by which I ſhould have brought " the whole to nothing; and it was my reſolu- " tion to have given lord Clive an account of " that day's converſation immediately, had not " I found, that, inſtead of adopting the ſcheme " I propoſed, they determined to addreſs the " board." His aid de camp was farther ſworn, " that, to the beſt of his recollection, he ac- " quainted ſir Robert Fletcher, between the 18th " and 20th of April, that the officers had receiv- " ed favourable accounts from the other bri- " gades;" and doubts not that he alſo acquaint- ed ſir Robert Fletcher, between the 18th and 20th of April, " that the officers received letters " from the other brigades, and alſo wrote letters " to them, upon the ſubject of the reſignation."

" Sir Robert Fletcher himſelf acknowledges, " that the officers determination to reſign came " to his knowledge about the 20th of April; " and that after the 20th it began to be reported " that the officers of the ſecond brigade had en- " gaged in a like aſſociation; but that he does " not recollect any thing certain of them till the " 24th or 25th, when talking with a gentleman, " who had joined with the reſt, and pretending " to be acquainted with every thing before, he " learnt from him, that and many other circum- " ſtances; particularly, that the firſt of May was " fixed upon for reſigning, and that the officers " had ſome thoughts of ſerving as volunteers till

" the pleaſure of the governor and council ſhould " be known."

Why did he not immediately communicate all this intelligence to his ſuperiors, to whom it certainly was his duty to communicate every the moſt minute circumſtance that came to his knowledge relating to ſuch a dangerous combination? He could not but judge it to be particularly requiſite that lord Clive and colonel Smith ſhould be made acquainted, as early as poſſible, with the intention of the officers of the ſecond brigade, whoſe reſignation was likely to be attended with the moſt fatal conſequences, as they were upon actual ſervice, and at the diſtance of eight hundred miles from the preſidency. But he did not divulge the intentions of the brigade under his own command at Monghyr, till the 25th of April (ſix days only before the day fixed upon for the reſignation) when he wrote to lord Clive, mentioning the intended reſignation of the officers of the firſt brigade as a meaſure which ſeemed likely to take place, and which had juſt then only come to his knowledge; and even that letter was not written till after he had received ſir Robert Barker's of the 21ſt, by which he found the plot was prematurely diſcovered at Patna, and would of courſe be immediately communicated by others, if not by him. It is alſo to be obſerved, that lord Clive did not receive any letter from ſir Robert Fletcher between that of the 25th April, which gave the firſt intimation of the affair, and that of the 1ſt of May, which informed his lordſhip that ſir Robert Fletcher had actually accepted the commiſſions of the officers of the firſt brigade.

The concealment, however (though that alone by the fourth article of the ſecond ſection of the articles of war is a capital offence) is the lighteſt part

part of the charge againſt ſir Robert Fletcher; the excitement of ſedition or mutiny, is the principal point; and we ſhall here collect the proofs, impartially, from his own words, and from the facts which ſtand upon the proceedings of the general court martial.

Captain Goddard has poſitively ſworn, that in a company conſiſting of ſir Robert Fletcher, captains Roper and Parker, lieutenants Watts, Dunbar, Bevan, and Francis, and Mr. Bagot, the ſurgeon, who dined with him in December 1765, or in January 1766, the reduction of the batta being the ſubject of converſation, ſir Robert Fletcher ſaid, that he thought the memorials which had been preſented would have no effect, altho' the orders of the company on that head were not poſitive; that he then declared, there was one method to recover it, and that was by a general reſignation, which could not fail of ſucceſs, as the diſſenſion of the civil, joined to that of the military, would carry every thing; that the diſcourſe then turning upon the method of reſigning, ſir Robert Fletcher ſaid, "ſend me your com-"miſſions and I will receive them," and adviſed the ſcheme ſhould be put into execution before the next ſhips ſailed for England; as their carrying home accounts of the batta being reduced would ſtrengthen lord Clive's intereſt ſo much, that it would be in vain to attempt the recovery of it hereafter; and intimated at parting, that it might be prejudicial to him to have that converſation repeated: that ſir Robert Fletcher afterwards, in private, pointed out to him the readineſs of Mr. Bevan's (the brigade major) joining in the reſignation: that theſe arguments of ſir Robert Fletcher, added to a ſuſpicion that had been entertained of his wanting to get a majority by the

the reſignation of others, induced him to enter into the combination to which he had been before averſe: and that ſir Robert Fletcher had, publicly at table that day, expreſſed his ſurpriſe that captain Goddard had not joined in the combination, as he thought an officer of his ſpirit ſhould have been the firſt to have engaged in it, or words to that effect.

Captain Roper has confirmed the greateſt part of captain Goddard's evidence: he has ſworn, that ſir Robert Fletcher, in that converſation, gave it as his opinion, that the memorials to the board would prove ineffectual; that, the reſignation being mentioned, he ſaid that was the only method; and that the preſent diſſenſions amongſt the civilians in Calcutta would greatly favour ſuch a meaſure, or words to that effect: that he would accept of the commiſſions; and that whatever was to be done, ought to be finiſhed before the ſhips ſailed.

Mr. Watts ſwears, that at the time abovementioned, the converſation turning upon the reduction of the batta, remonſtrances and a general reſignation were talked of to remove it; when ſir Robert Fletcher gave it as his opinion, that if a general reſignation ſhould take place, the batta would be reſtored; and propoſed, that the commiſſions ſhould be delivered up at the commencement of a month; that the officers ſhould receive no pay, but ſerve as volunteers till the determination of the governor and council ſhould be known; and that upon thoſe conditions he would accept of the commiſſions. Mr. Watts farther depoſes, that he heard ſir Robert Fletcher mention the departure of the Europe ſhips, and that he heard the word *diſſention* mentioned, tho' he does not recollect what was ſaid upon thoſe ſubjects:

jects: that upon the ſtrength of what captain Goddard has told him, he might have declared that captain Goddard was influenced by ſir Robert Fletcher to reſign his commiſſion.

Mr. Francis ſwears, that in the courſe of that day's converſation, ſir Robert Fletcher aſked captain Goddard what he was afraid of? and told him there was a method of getting the batta again: that captain Goddard ſaid he did not know how: that ſir Robert Fletcher again ſaid, there was a method, but it was not his place to point it out: that a little time after ſir Robert Fletcher propoſed that the officers ſhould all reſign their commiſſions, and ſerve as volunteers till an anſwer ſhould come from the board; that he would be bound to get the intereſt of the four Madraſs counſellors for the officers; and added, that as it was well known lord Clive was no friend of his, he hoped that diſcourſe would go no farther.

Such are the proofs that ſir Robert Fletcher propoſed the ſcheme of a general reſignation, and inſpired the officers with hopes that it could not fail of ſucceſs.

For the ſake of candour much time has been employed in ſumming up the evidences of facts, which we no where find contradicted.—Had they not been here produced in the very expreſſions of the ſeveral witneſſes, it might perhaps have been ſaid, that the ſame facts may be variouſly ſtated, and that they were here repreſented in the moſt unfavourable manner. No ſuſpicion, therefore, of partiality can hitherto have ariſen; and as we are now to aſſert that ſir Robert Fletcher himſelf has confeſſed, in his defence, that he adviſed the very plan of general reſignation which was afterwards carried into execution, and encouraged the

the officers to adopt it, we ſhall beg leave to repeat his own words, which are ſo clear and ſtrong, that the proof might have reſted upon them alone, without the depoſition of a ſingle witneſs. " After dinner, ſays he, captain Goddard " ſuddenly addreſſed himſelf to me, in the follow- " ing words, or words to the ſame purpoſe; " What would you do if we were to leave you " alone with the brigade? I anſwered, that I did " not think that would be a good ſcheme; that " however, there was a method for the recovery " of the batta, but it was not my buſineſs to " point it out. Enquiry then being made of me what " that method was, I adviſed that they ſhould " ſend in their commiſſions to me at the begin- " ning of a month, and ſerve as volunteers, with- " out pay, till the determination of the governor " ſhould be known. Captain Parker here inter- " rupted me, by calling out to captain Goddard, " that " he ſmelt a majority:" Upon which he " ſeemed much offended, and replied; That his " not being conſulted, as oldeſt officer in the " brigade, was rather ſlighting him. I then told " captain Goddard, that I thought there was no- " thing to fear; and that the officers would pro- " bably carry their point, if they acted prudent- " ly, and finiſhed their buſineſs before the ſailing " of the Europe ſhips. I afterwards mentioned " ſome other reaſons (but what I do not recollect) " why it appeared likely that the batta might be " reſtored, if the officers conſented to ſerve as " volunteers; and I told them, that upon that " condition I would accept of their commiſſions. " This, to the beſt of my recollection, is an ex- " act account of the converſation which then paſſ- " ed; and when the company broke up, I deſired " that what I had there ſaid might go no farther;

" to which, I think, captain Goddard promiſed " upon his honour it ſhould not."

After this, it is ſurely unneceſſary to add another word in proof of the allegation. It may not be improper, however, to take notice of ſome circumſtances, which ſir Robert Fletcher ſeems to think ſhould extenuate the weight of the charge.

Towards the cloſe of his defence, he aſſerts, that about the 24th of April he informed lord Clive, " the officers had, three months before, " talked of reſigning if their batta was not re- " ſtored," and that lord Clive at that time entirely approved of his conduct. By the information here ſpoken of, we can underſtand no other than the copy of his letter to ſir Robert Barker, dated the 24th of April *, which ſir Robert Fletcher encloſed to lord Clive in his letter of the 25th †, and by the approbation muſt be underſtood lord Clive's anſwer of the 28th ‡.

In the letter to ſir Robert Barker, he ſays, " it " is near three months, ſince the officers talked " of not ſerving unleſs their batta was reſtored: " ſoon after a remonſtrance was written to the " board, and I imagined the anſwer ſent them " through me had entirely put a ſtop to any " farther proceedings." This is what, in the cloſe of his defence, he would eſtabliſh as a full information to lord Clive of his conduct.

With regard to the approbation, which he mentions to have received from lord Clive, let us enquire whence that approbation aroſe, and how it was expreſſed.

Sir Robert Fletcher, in his letter of the 25th of April, informs lord Clive, that lieutenant Be-

* See Appendix, No. 8. † See Appendix, No. 6.
‡ See Appendix, No. 9.

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van, who alone was clear of the ſcrape, had acted by his (ſir Robert Fletcher's) advice, and had in conſequence ſtood ſingle againſt the torrent; that the officers intended to ſhew ſome reſentment againſt Mr. Bevan upon this occaſion, but that he (ſir Robert Fletcher) was uſing his influence to prevent it; and adds in the poſtſcript, (which he has omitted in his defence) "that in "caſe the officers ſhould not continue to ſerve, "he would appoint the cadets, and the beſt of "the ſergeants, to act as enſigns until he heard "from lord Clive." This then, we find, is the conduct of ſir Robert Fletcher in the month of April, which lord Clive in his anſwer the 28th was pleaſed to approve. The words are theſe, "Your conduct with reſpect to the combination "entering into by the officers of the brigade un-"der your command is highly commendable, "and you have my ſincere thanks on the occa-"ſion." From hence ſir Robert Fletcher would inſiuate, that lord Clive approved of his January conduct, though it is evident that his lordſhip was not acquainted with any part of it till the 14th of May.

He farther informs the court, that, on lord Clive's arrival at Monghyr, he reſumed the ſubject of his letter of the 14th of May †; to which lord Clive, having received it only the evening before on the road, had not written an anſwer; that he then mentioned his having once pretended to enter into ſome of the intended meaſures of the officers, in order to gain their confidence; and that lord Clive at that time expreſſed himſelf entirely ſatisfied with his conduct. Since ſir Robert Fletcher ſeems to lay great ſtreſs upon this

† See Appendix, No. 45.

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circumſtance, candour requires that it ſhould be allowed its fulleſt force, eſpecially as the converſation paſſed between lord Clive and him in private, and therefore admits of no proof. But how far will this ſort of vindication go? Lord Clive, to ſir Robert Fletcher, thought proper to expreſs himſelf ſatisfied. Can any man, however, imagine that lord Clive was really ſatisfied? Was not lord Clive, on the morning of his arrival, informed by captains Smith and Pearſon, that captain Goddard, and others, accuſed their lieutenant-colonel of having been the principal inſtigator of the defection, and that they were deſirous of an opportunity to prove the truth of their allegation? After ſuch intelligence, which, at the ſame time that it threw a new and great light upon ſir Robert Fletcher's own confeſſion, did not, however, unravel the whole myſtery, is it poſſible that lord Clive could have been ſatisfied with ſir Robert Fletcher's conduct? No; but the ſituation of public affairs was to be conſidered: the times would not then allow of any appearance of diſſatisfaction or miſtruſt, much leſs would they allow of a more particular or public enquiry: the ſoldiers of the European regiment were ſtrongly attached to ſir Robert Fletcher, and they had already ſhewn a diſpoſition to mutiny, provided he would have headed them. A very ſmall proportion of officers could yet be ſpared for the common duties of the garriſon; colonel Smith, and ſir Robert Barker, it was well known, ſtood in need of officers, and it was indiſpenſably neceſſary that as many as the condition of the firſt brigade would admit of ſhould be puſhed forward without delay to their aſſiſtance. Beſides, excluſive of theſe conſiderations, lord Clive was tender of giving too eaſy credit to aſſertions, which might

poſſibly

poſſibly have been dictated by the malice and reſentment of men grown deſperate by diſappointment, and who were perhaps in hopes of vindicating their own behaviour by arraigning, at the expence of truth, the behaviour of their commanding officer. For theſe reaſons he determined to look upon the allegation merely as a matter of private information; to paſs over, for the preſent, the inconſiſtencies that appeared in ſir Robert Fletcher's letters; to wait a more proper ſeaſon for comparing them with his conduct; and to leave him in the chearful performance of his duty, in this time of military confuſion, when no other officer of his rank could be had to take charge of the brigade, and when only one captain and three ſubalterns (two of whom had been made from ſergeants) could be ſpared to keep up the bare appearance of a corps. This was the true ſtate of the caſe, as it then ſtood; and that theſe were then the ſentiments of lord Clive, can be vouched by every man who had the honour to enjoy his lordſhip's confidence.

The proof of the facts, alledged againſt ſir Robert Fletcher, reſts upon the depoſitions we have ſeen made by the witneſſes, and alſo upon his own words in his defence, which require no farther comment.

It remains only to obſerve, that ſir Robert Fletcher, doubtful of the ſtrength of his reaſoning, recurs finally to the arguments made uſe of by lieutenant Vertue: "Can officers, ſays he, in the "Company's ſervice, not bound by any con-"tract, legally reſign their commiſſions, without "the conſent of the governor and council; or "are they guilty of mutiny in doing it?—If they "are not, can a perſon be guilty of mutiny in "only adviſing them to do it?"

The firſt of theſe queſtions has already been anſwered by the ſentence paſſed upon lieutenant Vertue; and the ſecond is ſufficiently anſwered, by the following;

Copy of the ſentence paſſed by the general court martial upon lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher, viz.

"The preſident and members, having taken "into mature conſideration the whole evidence "for and againſt the priſoner, lieutenant-colonel "ſir Robert Fletcher, together with his defence, "are of opinion, that he is guilty of mutiny, "the crime laid to his charge, by a breach of "the third and fourth articles of the ſecond ſec-"tion of the articles of war; the priſoner hav-"ing excited ſedition, and after coming to the "knowledge of a mutiny, or intended mutiny, "having delayed to give information thereof to "his commanding officer; the court do there-"fore adjudge him, and he is hereby adjudged, "to be caſhiered."

APPENDIX.

No. 1.

Extract from the Company's general letter to Bengal, dated 1ſt June, 1764, per Lapwing.

PAR. 39. We gave you our ſentiments ſo fully upon the exorbitant military expences at your preſidency, in our letter of the 9th March, 1763, that we have now only moſt poſitively to enforce the orders therein given, for your taking every opportunity to reduce them within the moſt frugal bounds the general good of the ſervice will admit of. But with reſpect to the double batta however, we as poſitively order, that immediately upon the receipt hereof, half of it be ſtruck off; that is to ſay, all our military are to have ſingle batta only, in the ſame manner as is allowed at our preſidency of Fort St. George; and even this ſingle batta, we moſt earneſtly recommend it to you to reduce, whenever circumſtances will admit of it.

No. 2.

Copy of the bond executed by the officers.—Tranſmitted to lord Clive by ſir Robert Fletcher.

Whereas we the underwritten have entered into an agreement to reſign our commiſſions in the honour-

honourable Company's ſervice, and not to reſume them unleſs the batta of the troops is again reſtored to what it was in July and Auguſt 1763. —Be it known unto all men, that we hereby bind and oblige ourſelves, ſeverally, not to accept of any commiſſion in the ſervice of the honourable Company whatever, either through fear, compulſion, or choice, unleſs the aforeſaid batta is reſtored; under the penalty of 500 l. ſterling money of England, recoverable in any of his majeſty's courts of juſtice, by the majority, or any five of the ſubſcribers to this bond. If the batta is reſtored to the above-mentioned ſtandard, then this obligation to be void and of no effect, otherwiſe to remain in full force and virtue. In witneſs, &c. ſigned, ſealed, and delivered, where no ſtamped paper is procurable.

No. 3.

Remonſtrance from the officers of the third brigade, addreſſed to lord Clive, and the council of Fort William.

My lord and gentlemen,

Induced to believe, by your great zeal for the intereſt of the honourable Eaſt India Company, that you will not think unworthy your notice the ſufferings of thoſe that ſerve them, and wiſh for new opportunities to advance their power, we take the liberty, in few lines as poſſible, leaſt we might miſapply your valuable moments, to ſpeak with truth the miſeries that either preſs, or threaten us every where, in conſequence of the orders of the 31ſt of December for the curtailing of batta.

Without neceſſaries, it is preſumed, it will not be ſaid we can ſubſiſt in Indoſtan; and all com-

modities thence, notwithſtanding, as we are told, your kind endeavours to the contrary, ſtill bring the uſual prices at the preſidency; and here, as formerly, fifty, ſixty, and upwards, to two hundred per cent. more than at Fort William.

The wages of ſervants too remain unalterable. Nor is this all; but every black fellow has his peculiar province, beyond which he cannot be brought to ſerve. Indeed, to an officer nothing is new, except multiplied diſtreſs.

If we fail here, my lord and gentlemen, to make ſufficiently apparent, how inadequate to the ſupport of an officer is his preſent allowance, we will be ready, at any time, to lay before you an eſtimate of expences, which, we may venture to promiſe us, you will think eſſentially requiſite to the ſupport of nature, and the ſtation he is honoured with; but 'twere becoming tedious, contrary to our promiſe, if we detained you here with the fatigues of an officer in hot and rainy weather; the neceſſity of his having an horſe or palenquin, and the preſent impoſſibility of his procuring either; therefore, waving this, we only beg leave, before we cloſe, juſt to mention Madraſs and Bombay, and the cheapneſs of every thing at thoſe ſettlements; amazing indeed, if compared with the prices of this; a truth well known to all, the honourable gentlemen we ſerve excepted; who, as from beſt authority we have it, think inverſely of this matter, believing that cheapneſs of neceſſaries is chiefly to be met with in Bengal. However, my lord and gentlemen, we cannot but believe you will undeceive them; and, ſecure of their concurrence, from arguments unanſwerable, will cancel the orders before mentioned of the 31ſt of December, which are already moſt ſeverely felt;

and,

and, if not countermanded, muſt quickly bring poverty and wretchedneſs on thoſe that are, with the greateſt ſincerity,

My lord and gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient, &c.

CAPTAINS.

Ja^{s} Morgan.	John Coker.
J. Duffield.	Patrick Duff.
James Thomas.	John G. Robinſon.
W^{m} Nugent.	John Mair.
Tho^{s} Roper.	

LIEUTENANTS.

Rob^{t} Davidſon.	John Grant,
George Thomas.	Thom. M'Donald.
Henry Williams.	John Dickſon.
Cha^{s} Scott.	Tho^{s} Dundas.
Rob^{t} Shand.	John Forbes.
W^{m} Maſon.	W^{m} Farmer.

ENSIGNS.

W^{m} Denman.	Alex. Skirwin.
Edw^{d} Reid.	Rob^{t} Stewart.
J. Scott.	N. Davis.
Ja^{s} Home.	Cha^{s} Collins.
J. Brown.	Cha^{s} Ware.
Ralph Middleton.	Tho^{s} Baillie.
Fran. Robertſon.	Francis Field.
John Armſtrong.	G. Goodyar.
George Rooke.	Tho^{s} Penning.
Henry Townley.	P. Angerſtein.

No. 4.

Extract of a letter from lord Clive to Harry Verelſt, eſq. dated Bianpore, 22d April, 1766.

" Laſt night I received your favour of the 19th inſtant, encloſing a very curious compoſition, entitled a remonſtrance, which, by the names ſubſcribed, muſt have come from the officers of ſir Robert Barker's brigade. Since you have been ſo obliging as to defer taking notice of it, till you hear from me, I ſhall take the liberty of ſuggeſting to you the manner in which I think it ought to be treated by the board. Upon a ſuppoſition that the remonſtrance was not ſent through the commanding officer, which would have been the proper channel, nor accompanied with a letter to the governor and council, Mr. Alderſey, as ſecretary, ſhould be ordered to return it, or a copy of it, to ſir Robert Barker, informing him of its having been ſent without date, and without any apparent concurrence of the commanding officer; but that as it evidently came from his brigade, it is tranſmitted to him for his information, the board not intending to take other cognizance of a paper ſo irregularly brought before them.

" If, on the other hand, it ſhould have been ſent through the proper channel, I agree with you in opinion, that a ſimilar anſwer to that lately given to the remonſtrance from the firſt brigade, would be as good as any which can be deviſed. But I would propoſe, by way of addition, that the board ſhould obſerve with aſtoniſhment, that the remonſtrance is ſubſcribed by ſeveral ſubalterns of the ſeapoy battalions, who have each (the lieutenants I mean) an extra allowance of two rupees *per diem*, which, together

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per annum in sterling.

		£	s.	d. pts.
Infantry		3	19	1.68
		0	13	11.244
		5	10	5.436
		4	10	8.052
		1	12	6.996
		8	14	4.92
		4	5	8.244
		2	18	1.356
Seapoys officers		4	10	8.052
		9	2	3.84
		7	3	8.244
Artillery		0	9	11.616
		3	11	8.436
		0	14	2.1
		0	14	2.1
		9	5	4.728
Cavalry		5	19	3.888
		8	1	3.808
		4	12	6.744
		4	4	8.712
		9	16	8.004
Staff		4	10	8.052
		4	10	8.052
		4	10	8.052
		4	10	8.052
		4	10	8.052
		4	10	8.052
		4	10	8.052
		4	10	8.052
		8	14	4.92
		8	14	4.92
		8	14	4.92
		4	5	8.244
Staff in Staff composed garrison from civilians.		4	10	8.052
		4	10	8.052
		8	14	4.92
		4	10	8.052
		8	14	4.92
		4	10	8.052
		8	14	4.92
		5	16	3.156
		5	16	3.156
		2	18	1.356

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"gether with their pay and batta, might afford "them a very comfortable ſubſiſtence; and that, "if they would compare their own ſituation and "circumſtances with thoſe of many hundreds of "gallant men who have ſerved their king and "country, in climates as bad as this, and who "are now ſtarving upon forty pounds a year, "they would find little reaſon to deſcant upon the "hardſhips of their lot."

No. 5. [*See the annexed table.*]

No. 6.

Copy of ſir Robert Fletcher's letter to lord Clive, dated Monghyr, 25th April, 1766.

I have had the honour to receive your lordſhip's letter of the 21ſt inſtant. In my addreſs of yeſterday to general Carnac, I adviſed him of captain Du Carel's being now out of danger.

The ſcheme your lordſhip mentions, I have heard of, for the benefit of invalided officers and ſoldiers, and it is truly noble and laudable.

The officers ſeem now reſolved on another attempt for the recovery of their batta. Their commiſſions, as I underſtand, are to be ſent me at the end of this month, together with a letter informing me that they will draw no pay for the next, but will continue to ſerve until the affair is finally determined for or againſt them. Mr. Bevan, who is ſtrongly connected with me in friendſhip, is the only one of the brigade who is clear of this ſcrape. As he does nothing without my particular advice, ſo he conſulted me on this occaſion; and it was agreed that he ſhould ſtand ſingly againſt the torrent, and plead his obligations to your lordſhip, as a ſufficient reaſon for diſſenting from a meaſure that would carry the

appearance of oppoſition. This, however, does by no means ſatisfy them. Several attacks have been made on him ſince, but to no purpoſe; he does and will continue firm, without diſcovering the leaſt marks of irreſolution, although threatened, as they tell him, with ruin. A combination is now on foot not to ſpeak to him, and I am uſing my influence with three or four of the beſt not to join in it. From a letter I have received from colonel Barker, which I herewith tranſmit to your lordſhip, together with my anſwer, I judge the other brigades are ripe for the ſame purpoſe. Whatever reaſon the indigent majority may or may not have for carrying this matter ſo far, I hardly ſee any colour of a plea for thoſe who bear double poſts.

I am, with great reſpect,

My lord, &c.

Monghyr,
25th April, 1766.

Rob^t Fletcher.

P. S. Captain Du Carel, I believe, knows nothing of this combination of the officers. In caſe they ſhould not continue to ſerve after their commiſſions are given in, I will appoint the cadets and the beſt of the ſergeants to act as enſigns, until I hear from your lordſhip; nor have I the leaſt apprehenſions of any mutiny among the troops.

No. 7.

Copy of ſir Robert Barker's letter to ſir Robert Fletcher, dated Cantonments, Bankipore, the 21ſt April, 1766.

My dear ſir Robert,

Returned am I to quarters, and to the mortification of ſeeing one half of the cantonments burnt

burnt down, by a very unlucky quarrel between two officers. This is not all, for I find that ſince I have been away, ſtrange meetings and ſtrange meaſures have been taken by the gentlemen of my brigade; and I have a good deal of reaſon to think it is not confined to this brigade alone, about the reduction of batta. Be ſo good to let me know if you have made any diſcoveries of this kind, for it behoves us, I believe, to be vigilant in the affair, and that ſoon.

I am,

Cantonments at Bankipore, the 21ſt April, 1766.

Dear Fletcher, &c.

Rob^t Barker.

No. 8.

Copy of ſir Robert Fletcher's letter to ſir Robert Barker, in anſwer to the foregoing, dated Monghyr, 24th April, 1766.

Dear ſir Robert.

I have been favoured by your letter of the 21ſt inſtant. The affair of your bungulos is certainly very unlucky, and I hope that thoſe who occaſioned it will be brought to a proper ſenſe of the impropriety of their conduct. With regard to the other matter, it is near three months ſince the officers talked of not ſerving unleſs their batta was reſtored; ſoon after a remonſtrance was written to the board, and I imagined the anſwer ſent them, through me, had entirely put a ſtop to any farther proceedings; and I am ſtill of opinion, conſidering the circumſtances and connections of moſt of the offieers in the ſervice, that nothing of any conſequence can happen. I have heard ſome

days ago, that they have thoughts of reſuming this demand; but I hardly think it a matter of ſerious notice, and inſtead of being alarmed, I judge it the beſt method to appear very indifferent. At worſt they can but quit the ſervice; and as I am of opinion, that it is now too late for his lordſhip to alter his reſolution, he may turn the evil to good, by picking and chuſing the beſt on his own terms, and turning the worſt to the right about.

Monghyr, 24th April, 1766. I am, dear ſir Robert, yours, &c.

Robt. Fletcher.

No. 9.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to ſir Robert Fletcher, dated Mootejyl, 28th April, 1766.

Sir,

I have this moment received your favours of the 25th inſtant, encloſing ſir Robert Barker's letter to you and your anſwer. Your conduct, with reſpect to the combination entering into by the officers of the brigade under your command, is highly commendable, and you have my ſincere thanks upon the occaſion. Notwithſtanding their ſeeming reſolution, I cannot think they will actually go through with it; and indeed I hope, for their own ſakes, they will not; for I am determined, that any man who reſigns his commiſſion, from no other cauſe of diſguſt than what you mention, ſhall be immediately diſmiſſed the ſervand never reſtored.

Mootejyl, 28th April, 1766. I am, ſir, your's, &c.

Clive.

No. 10.

No. 10.

Copy of an anonymous letter addreſſed to captain Carnac, dated Corah, the 15th of April, 1766.

Sir,

In conſequence of the orders of the 31ſt of December, the officers of the firſt, ſecond, and third brigades, came to an agreement of reſigning their commiſſions, which are now lodged, to the amount of one hundred and thirty. We, therefore, requeſt you will ſend your commiſſion to ſome friend of the firſt brigade, and therewith ſome ſuch directions as you may think proper, as experience has ſhewn there is no dependance on verbal declarations. All the abſentees have been wrote to on this occaſion; and we truſt, whatever ſtep you take, you will not make this known. A ſubſcription has been opened here for ſupporting thoſe who may want it, in caſe the council may think proper to accept of all our commiſſions, or to indemnify thoſe who may be pointed out as principals and ſuffer, ſhould the batta even be reſtored. We likewiſe deſire to know your reſolution regarding it. Let us have your anſwer as ſoon as poſſible. Direct to any of us of the regiment at Allahabad.

I am, &c.

Cora, 15th of April, 1766. Full Batta.

The encloſed ſubſcription has been ſigned by the above one hundred and thirty officers; if you conſent to the above, ſign the encloſed, and forward it, with your anſwer.

We

We the undernamed officers of the ſecond brigade do hereby bind ourſelves by our honour, to pay a ſum of money, in proportion to our rank we hold in the Company's ſervice, in order to defray the expence of going to England, and purchaſing an equal commiſſion in his majeſty's ſervice, for any officer or officers, who may be ſingled out to ſuffer in the cauſe in which we are now engaged.

No. 11.

Copy of a committee letter to the gentlemen of the council at Fort William, dated Mootejyl, 29th April, 1766.

Gentlemen,

Having this moment received undoubted advice, that an aſſociation among the officers of the firſt, ſecond, and third brigades is formed, in order to diſtreſs the government at this critical juncture, by reſigning their commiſſions, unleſs their full batta ſhould be reſtored, we muſt requeſt you will write by expreſs to the preſidency at Fort St. George, to deſire they will iſſue orders to all the captains and ſubalterns they can poſſibly ſpare from immediate ſervice, and alſo ſuch cadets and other gentlemen as they may think qualified to bear commiſſions, to hold themſelves in readineſs to embark for Bengal on the ſhorteſt notice. Such a ſpirit muſt at all hazards be ſuppreſſed in the birth, unleſs we determine upon ſeeing the authority of the preſident and council inſulted, and the government of theſe provinces paſs from the civil into the hands of the military department.

You

You will pleaſe to obſerve, in your letter to Fort St. George, that every poſſible encouragement will be given to thoſe gentlemen who embrace this opportunity of diſtinguiſhing their zeal for the public ſervice, not only by allowing them ſuch rank as they may claim from the date of their commiſſions, but every other indulgence conſiſtent with the duty we owe to the company.

One hundred and thirty officers, we are informed, have already ſubſcribed to the aſſociation, in which they have engaged to main and ſupport ſuch of the ſufferers as may not yet have acquired independence, and are in more immediate danger of incurring our reſentment; of this, and alſo of the approach of the Morattoes, we think it neceſſary you ſhould acquaint the preſidency at Fort St. George, that the nature of the preſent emergency may appear the ſtronger. We think it neceſſary alſo, you ſhould come to an abſolute reſolution, that no officer now reſigning his commiſſion, ſhall ever hereafter hold any place or ſtation whatever in this ſervice.

We are with reſpect, gentlemen, yours, &c.

Clive.
John Carnac.
F. Sykes.

Mootejyl,
29th April, 1766.

No. 12.

Copy of a letter from the council at Fort William, to the preſident and council of Fort St. George, dated at Fort William the 1ſt of May, 1766.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

We have this inſtant received advice from lord Clive, general Carnac, and Mr. Sykes, at Mootejyl,

ejyl, of their having undoubted intelligence of an aſſociation among the officers, to diſtreſs the government, by reſigning their commiſſions, unleſs their double batta be reſtored; to which one hundred and thirty have not only already ſubſcribed, but engaged among themſelves to maintain and ſupport ſuch as may not yet have acquired an independency, and are therefore more in danger of ſuffering by the effects of our reſentment.

As giving way to ſuch a mutinous ſpirit might have the moſt dangerous tendency, we are determined to ſuppreſs it in its birth, at all hazards, We therefore moſt earneſtly requeſt you will order to be held in readineſs for embarking, on a moment's warning, all the captains and ſubalterns you can poſſibly ſpare from immediate ſervice, as alſo all ſuch cadets and other gentlemen as you may think qualified to bear commiſſions; and we would recommend to you to loſe no opportunity of ſecuring means of conveying them hither, until you hear farther from us.

Every poſſible encouragement ſhall be enſured to thoſe who embrace this opportunity of diſtinguiſhing their zeal for the public ſervice, and they ſhall be immediately allowed rank according to the dates of their commiſſions on your eſtabliſhment, ſo far as it does not prejudice ſuch of the ſame rank here, who may not join in the aſſociation.

We cannot, gentlemen, too ſtrongly urge the neceſſity of your compliance with this requeſt, as we are yet uncertain of the intentions of a very conſiderable body of Morattoes approaching towards theſe provinces, who are already advanced

near

near our brigade with the king, at the extremity of Sujah Dowla's dominions.

We are, honourable ſir and ſirs, yours, &c.

Harry Verelſt.
Randolph Marriott.
Claud Ruſſell.
Wm. Alderſey.
Thomas Kelſal.
Charles Floyer.

Fort William,
1ſt May, 1766.

No. 13.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to colonel Smith, dated at Mootejyl, the 29th April, 1766.

Sir,

I have this day received authentic intelligence that no leſs than one hundred and thirty officers of the three brigades have made a depoſit of their commiſſions, and entered into an aſſociation not to ſerve unleſs the double batta be reſtored. To this, it ſeems, is added an agreement to ſubſcribe for the maintenance of the principals (who they imagine will be the only ſufferers) till their arrival in Europe, and to purchaſe for them commiſſions of equal rank in his majeſty's ſervice. Can any man in his ſenſes ſuppoſe, that the ſecretary at war being made acquainted with the names and conduct of theſe officers, will ever give his conſent to their admiſſion into the king's regiments? With regard to thoſe who have already ſerved in Europe, and are now upon the half-pay liſt, they would do well to recollect, that they will not be entitled to their half-pay on their return to England, without producing a certificate of their good behaviour in the ſervice of the Company; for ſuch is his majeſty's declared re-

ſolution; and if they cannot obtain half-pay, how can they expect to be admitted upon full-pay?

The incloſed copy of a letter, we have juſt diſpatched to the gentlemen of council at Fort William will inform you of the meaſure that muſt take place, if this unmilitary aſſociation be not immediately diſſolved; and I will add, for my own part, that any officer who reſigns his commiſſion from no other cauſe of diſguſt than the company's orders for the reduction of batta, ſhall abſolutely be diſmiſſed the ſervice, and never be reſtored. For their ſakes, however, I hope they will ſpeedily reſolve upon a change of conduct; and I doubt not but you will exert your utmoſt influence to bring the gentlemen of your brigade to a juſt ſenſe of their duty. If my ſentiments can have weight, you are at liberty to make them as public as you pleaſe, as alſo the copy of our letter to the council. You will likewiſe communicate to the officers under your command, the incloſed copy of the eighty-ſecond paragraph of the company's letter to this preſidency, which will make them acquainted with the ſentiments that muſt be entertained at home of their unſoldierlike behaviour.

My buſineſs at the city is now nearly concluded, ſo that I ſhall be able, in a very few days, to proceed on my journey.

Mooteejyl,
29th April 1766.

I am, &c.
Clive.

A like letter of the ſame date was ſent to ſir Robert Barker and to ſir Robert Fletcher.

Extract

Extract of a letter from lord Clive to ſir Robert Barker, dated at Mootejyl, the 29th April, 1766.

I have received your letter of the 19th inſtant, encloſing the proceedings of a general court-martial on Labott, and a copy of colonel Smith's application to you for two battalions of ſeapoys and three field pieces. I do not diſapprove of your having ſent the detachment required; but am much ſurpriſed that the firſt account of ſuch a meaſure being in agitation ſhould have come from you.

Thoſe officers who were the occaſion of the fire at Bankipore will, I hope, meet with the puniſhment they deſerve.

During your abſence upon the Bettea expedition, the captains, lieutenants, and enſigns of your brigade have preferred a very extraordinary remonſtrance to the governor and council, upon the ſubject of batta. This proceeding was, I think, ſomewhat contemptuous towards you; and as the remonſtrance was not tranſmitted through the channel of the commanding officer, I have given it as my opinion, that the board ſhould pay no other attention to it, than that of ſending it to you for your information. By the behaviour of our preſent corps of officers, one would actually conclude that every true idea of military diſcipline was effaced.

No. 14.

Copy of ſir Robert Barker's letter to lord Clive, dated at Bankipore, the 27th April, 1766.

My Lord,

I am favoured with your lordſhip's letter of the 21ſt inſtant. I ſhall take particular care and at-

tention in the reception of Sujah Dowla, ſhould we ſee him here before your lordſhip arrives; but I am apprehenſive the appearance of the Morattoes near the frontiers of his dominions may detain him for ſome time.

I wrote to your lordſhip on the 19th, juſt after my arrival at Bankipore, in which I mentioned my being greatly concerned at a fire which burnt down ſome of the officers bungalows; but how much more ſo am I in diſcovering, that, during my abſence from the brigade, ſuch meetings and ſuch meaſures have been taken by the officers as will ſurpriſe you, and this not confined to my brigade alone, but carried on by the other two brigades alſo; at leaſt, I am aſſured the firſt is in the ſcheme.

On your lordſhip's anſwer concerning the reduction of the batta, they have agreed to reſign their commiſſions, and have actually depoſited them in the hands of one officer for that purpoſe: they have alſo carried on a kind of ſubſcription, which I am informed is to pay for the paſſage home of thoſe who have it not in their own power. All this has been carried on with ſuch ſecrecy, that even colonel Chapman, on the ſpot, knew nothing of it; and you may gueſs, my lord, my amazement at the diſcovery, yeſterday, which the proceedings of the court martial, and declaration of one of the priſoners, afforded me: I am doing my utmoſt on the occaſion. The proceedings of the general court martial, encloſed, I ſhall not take upon me to approve. The priſoners I ſhall ſend down to Calcutta: the active perſons I ſhall ſend down alſo, becauſe trying them here by their comrades would only be trifling, and I have too much reaſon to ſuppoſe the

officers of the other brigades are of the ſame way of thinking.

This is not all; for I have hints given me, that the ſubſcription is carried on alſo by ſome of the civilians in Calcutta to a large amount; how true this is I cannot learn.

You may reſt aſſured, my lord, every meaſure ſhall be taken on my ſide to ſuppreſs this affair.

I am, &c.

Bankipore,
27th April 1766.

Robt Barker.

No. 15.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to ſir Robert Barker, in anſwer to the foregoing, dated at Mooteejyl, the 2d May, 1766.

Dear ſir,

I have this moment received yours of the 27th April, encloſing the proceedings of a general court martial upon captain Duff and enſign Davis. Your reſolution to ſend the priſoners down to Calcutta has my entire approbation. I approve likewiſe of your ſending to Calcutta thoſe officers who you may find have been active in the aſſociation againſt continuing in the ſervice without the old allowance of batta: but I requeſt you will be particularly ſtudious in remarking whether the behaviour of any of them can fall under the conſtruction of mutiny; and if you think it may, I deſire you will keep ſuch officers in arreſt at Bankipore, till we can ſummon a court martial of field officers; for I am of opinion with you, that to try them by their comrades would be very ineffectual. Find out, if poſſible, the perſon in whoſe hands the commiſſions are depo-

ſited. The ringleaders of this affair muſt ſuffer the ſevereſt puniſhment that martial law can inflict, or elſe there is an end of diſcipline in the army, and of authority in the Eaſt India company over all their ſervants.

I have appointed captain Ironſides and captain Polier to be majors, and you will be pleaſed to give them out in orders accordingly.

Mootejyl,
2d May, 1766.

I am, &c.

Clive.

P. S. I encloſe a copy of the remonſtrance ſent to the governor and council from the officers of your brigade.

No. 16.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to colonel Smith, dated at Mootejyl, 2d May, 1766.

SIR,

A letter from ſir Robert Barker has juſt informed me that he has diſcovered the aſſociation, entered into by the officers of his brigade, not to ſerve without the old allowance of batta, and that many commiſſions are already actually depoſited. I have directed him to ſend the moſt active among them down priſoners to Calcutta, and to keep ſuch of them, whoſe behaviour he may think will fall under the conſtruction of mutiny, in arreſt at Bankipore, till we can ſummon a general court martial of field officers; for I am convinced no other mode of trial will be effectual. Theſe orders, which I have iſſued to ſir Robert Barker, are equally proper for you, and I deſire you will follow them at Allahabad. If you can

diſcover the perſon in whoſe hands the commiſſions of your brigade have been depoſited, you will immediately put him in arreſt, and give me the earlieſt information. I leave this place on Thurſday next.

Mootejyl,
2d May, 1766.

I am, &c.

Clive.

P. S. An anonymous letter, ſigned Firſt Brigade, ſays, none but pimps to power will refuſe to reſign their commiſſions; and that it is determined, whoever refuſes to reſign his commiſſion ſhall be made over to Coventry to all eternity; and that their commiſſions would be given up the firſt of May.—I wiſh I could diſcover the authors of thoſe anonymous letters, my utmoſt endeavours ſhould be uſed to get them ſhot.

A like letter was diſpatched at the ſame time to ſir Robert Fletcher.

No. 17.

Copy of a letter from ſir Robert Barker to lord Clive, dated at Bankipore, the 29th April, 1766.

My lord,

It is now beyond a ſuſpicion that the officers of the three brigades have laid ſchemes, and are combined together in giving up their commiſſions: this was to have been performed when your lordſhip came here; but the meaſures I have taken has facilitated their intentions; they are now to offer their commiſſions, I am informed to the

commanding officers of the brigades, who, I hope, will behave properly on the occaſion.

I have, in order to ſhake this combination, and to be better able to manage the remainder, as well as to try if they will refuſe orders, ordered a part of the regiment to march; indeed, as the Morattoes appear undetermined what they will do, it might not be improbable, that while they are diverting colonel Smith, they may detach a party to plunder Banaraſs; and therefore this detachment will either guard againſt an incurſion of that kind, or be ready to reinforce colonel Smith, ſhould there be occaſion. I am under no apprehenſions for my brigade; but I tremble for the conſequences at Monghyr, as I am informed a day is nominated for the three brigades.

Bankipore,
29th April, 1766.

I am &c.

Robt Barker.

No. 18.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to ſir Robert Fletcher, dated at Mootejyl, 4th of May, 1766.

Sir,

I cannot help being anxious to hear from you, as by the intelligence I receive from other quarters, it appears that the aſſociation is more headſtrong in your brigade, than in either of the other two. Permit me to repeat my requeſt, that you will inform yourſelf, as far as poſſible, of the names of the principals, and every other particular relating to the combination. I wiſh to know what progreſs it has made at Monghyr ſince your laſt. It will be highly neceſſary for you to diſcover the full intention of the officers. If you find

find that they mean more than merely reſigning their commiſſions; or if you find that the ſoldiers, European or ſeapoys, are the leaſt diſpoſed to be mutinous, I deſire you will, without delay, take ſuch ſteps as may moſt effectually ſecure to us the fidelity and attachment of the ſubahdars, or commanding officers of the black troops.

Whatever may be the iſſue of this affair, I am determined that thoſe who have been moſt active ſhall be diſmiſſed the ſervice.

I ſhall ſet out from hence on Tueſday next, and make to Monghyr with all poſſible expedition.

I am, &c,

Clive.

Mootejyl,
4th May, 1766.

P. S. Since writing the above, I have received yours of the 1ſt, with the letter to you from the officers.

No. 19.

Copy of ſir Robert Fletcher's letter to lord Clive, dated at Monghyr, 1ſt of May, 1766.

My lord,

I herewith tranſmit to your lordſhip a letter which I received from the officers of this brigade, with my anſwer, and a letter which I received from ſir Robert Barker this morning. I do not think there is the ſmalleſt chance of any diſturbance happening among the troops in conſequence of this combination.

I am, &c.

Rob^t Fletcher.

Monghyr,
1ſt May, 1766.

No. 20.

Copy of a letter from the officers of the firſt brigade to lieutenant-colonel ſir Robert Fletcher, dated at Monghyr, 1ſt May, 1766.

Sir,

That we might put it out of the power of either the world or our own conſciences to reproach us for deſiring leave to reſign our commiſſions in the company's ſervice, we have ſerved four months, in obedience to the orders of the 31ſt of December 1765, and we are now but too well convinced that our former ſuſpicions were true: for, notwithſtanding the propoſed reduction of ſervants wages, and diſmiſſing every unneceſſary attendant, we find we cannot live upon the preſent allowances, but muſt every month run in debt, as long as we have any credit. We muſt appear upon the parade as becomes officers, and keep up our reſpective ranks, or diſobey public orders: we muſt eat and drink as befits the climate, or fall ſacrifices to hunger and ſickneſs: and to do all theſe only in moderation, we muſt run in debt to every perſon who will give us any credit, be they men of honour, or the loweſt in the creation; and ſo fall under the laſh of another article of war, for behaving unlike gentlemen.

You know we have applied for redreſs in the humbleſt manner, and that it has been refuſed us: it is needleſs for us here to call upon you to witneſs for our attachment to our maſters; our behaviour through a ſeries of ſevere campaigns muſt bear down all ſlander. Some of us have eat the company's bread for ſome years, and are deeply concerned we can no more do it with honour. All of us are ſorry to be obliged to take this method

thod of preventing ruin and miſery from falling upon ourſelves and connections; and ſincerely wiſh, that our maſters may ever meet with a ſet of officers as much attached and devoted to their ſervice as we have always wiſhed to approve ourſelves, and who may maintain the affairs of the company, to the lateſt poſterity, in that ſplendor to which we have happily raiſed them. But unleſs the pay and batta of their troops is again reſtored, to what it was in July and Auguſt 1763, our prayers are all that we can now give them.

As it is from principle we now reſign the ſervice, it would give us the greateſt uneaſineſs, ſhould the affairs of our honourable maſters ſuffer by ſo ſudden a reſignation. We have therefore reſolved to ſerve them without pay of any kind, or being eſteemed officers in their ſervice, until the 15th of this preſent month of May, when an anſwer may be had from thoſe gentlemen of the council, who we know have the power of granting us redreſs, or ſupplying our places with other officers, provided you deſire it.

Our commiſſions accompany this, and we requeſt you will keep them till the anſwer arrives; and that you will at the ſame time direct the paymaſters to iſſue the pay of the non-commiſſioned officers and private men upon unſigned abſtracts, to prevent any ſuſpicion or diſturbance ariſing, which would give us the greateſt uneaſineſs; for we ſeek to live by our ſervices, never to hurt our maſters.

We are, with due reſpect, ſir, your, &c.

Monghyr, 1ſt May, 1766.

Benj. Wilding.
John Mattocks.
William Paton.
Edward Rawſtone.
G. G°. Hoggan.
James Brown.

Charles

Charles Bowles.	C. H. Sarney.
John Fergufon.	W^m. Bullingbrooke.
Charles Marfacks.	John O Byrn.
John Ant. Vaziel.	John Wood.
James Dunbar.	John Downes.
Francis Onge.	Al. Macpherfon.
Jos. Bruce.	G. Stranford.
Tho^s. Borthwick.	W^m. Elliot.
John M^cPherfon.	W. Heylon.
C. Ironfide.	Tho^s. James.
Ja^s. Broadbent.	W^m. Henry Rice.
Tho^s. Goddard.	Ch. J. J. Fielding.
Arthur Achmuty.	Roger Scarling.
John Stainforth.	S. Skinner.
James Watts.	P. Knudfon.
Horton Brifcoe.	John Petrie.
John Shrimpton.	Arch^d. Stewart.
Tho^s. Briton.	Rob^t. Kyd.

P. S. The guards fhall be relieved this morning, and every thing as ufual, to prevent all fufpicion.

No. 21.

Copy of fir Robert Fletcher's letter to the officers of the firft brigade, in anfwer to the above, dated at Monghyr, 1ft May, 1766.

Gentlemen,

I have received your letter of this date, together with your commiffions; and fhall, agreeable to your requeft, take the moft expeditious method of obtaining you an anfwer from our fuperiors. I agree with you in thinking it better that the foldiers remain ignorant of the meafure you have taken; and I defire you to continue to do duty as officers, according to your former refpective

tive ranks, until we know the pleaſure of the governor and council. I am, &c.

Monghyr,
1ſt May, 1766. Rob^t Fletcher.

No. 22.

Copy of ſir Robert Barker's letter to ſir Robert Fletcher, dated at Bankipore, the 29th April, 1766.

Dear ſir Robert,

It is now beyond a doubt, that the officers of the three brigades have entered into an agreement of giving up their commiſſions on the ſame day; and I believe the meaſures I have taken, of ſending ſome of the principals down to Calcutta, has haſtened that day, I am afraid, before you can receive this; for God's ſake take care of your men; the officers having quitted them, there is no knowing what might be the conſequence. I aſſure you it requires your utmoſt ſkill and judgment. I have marched a party of my regiment, by way of ſhaking the combination: if you was to do the ſame, I think it would not be amiſs.

Yours, &c.

Bankipore,
29th April, 1766. Rob^t Barker.

No. 23.

Copy of a Committee letter to the council at Fort William, dated at Mootejyl, the 4th of May, 1766.

Gentlemen,

The encloſed letter to colonel ſir Robert Fletcher will convince you, that the advices we lately tranſmitted to your board were well founded, and that

we

we muſt now act with the utmoſt vigour and unanimity in ſupport of the civil government. You will perceive that the officers of the firſt brigade have actually reſigned, and we ſoon expect to hear that the other brigades have acted in the ſame manner, conformably to the terms of the aſſociation.

We would therefore recommend, that you inſtantly diſpatch an expreſs to Fort St. George, requeſting, in the moſt urgent manner, that all the officers and cadets they can poſſibly ſpare from that eſtabliſhment may immediately embark for Bengal; and this diſpatch you will pleaſe to accompany with a duplicate of your laſt.

At the ſame time, we requeſt you will ſend to ſuch gentlemen among the free merchants as you imagine are the moſt likely, from their age, to accept the military ſervice, during the preſent emergency, and till we can be ſupplied with officers; in conſideration of which, you will engage not only to recommend them home to ſtations on the civil eſtabliſhment, but indulge them with the free privilege of duſtucks, upon reſignation of their military employments, until their ſervices ſhall be properly rewarded by the court of directors. We are, gentlemen, yours, &c.

Clive.
John Carnac.
Fras. Sykes.

Mootejyl,
4th May, 1766.

No. 24.

Copy of ſir Robert Barker's letter to lord Clive, dated at Bankipore, the 30th of April, 1766.

My lord,

Yeſterday I received a letter from the officers of my brigade, acquainting me with their intentions

tions of preſenting their commiſſions the firſt of May; that they were determined not to receive pay or batta for that month; but that they would obey orders, and ſerve until the fifteenth of the month, in which time they ſuppoſed your lordſhip would be up, or they ſhould know your anſwer.

This morning, I aſſembled them at my quarters, made them acquainted that they were committing mutiny and deſertion, and that I hoped they would reflect on what they were doing; to all which they anſwered, that they were ſolemnly bound and engaged with the other brigades to offer their commiſſions on the firſt of May, and that they could not be off.

I wrote your lordſhip laſt night, that I was under great uneaſineſs for the firſt brigade; my reaſon for it was, that I am told the men have expreſſed themſelves that they will go off with their officers.

I ſhall write your lordſhip of to-morrow's proceedings; and am, with great reſpect,

Your &c.

Bankipore, 30th April, 1766. Rob^t. Barker.

P. S. I am told that there is a laack and forty thouſand rupees ſubſcribed for the officers by the gentlemen at Calcutta.

No. 25.

Copy of a committee letter to the council at Fort William, dated at Mootejyl, the 5th May, 1766, in which Sir Robert Barker's letter above was encloſed.

Gentlemen,

The right honourable the preſident received the encloſed this morning from ſir Robert Barker;

ker; whence you will obſerve that the combination is general, that the diſaffected are determined, and that the fidelity of the private ſoldiers of the firſt brigade is ſomewhat dubious. Yet this ſuſpicion of ſir Robert Barker is by no means warranted by any advices from ſir Robert Fletcher, who ought to be the beſt judge of the diſpoſition that prevails in his own corps.

The circumſtance mentioned in the poſtſcript we long ſuſpected, ſince there was little reaſon to believe, that men, who had already proceeded to ſuch lengths in oppoſition, would heſitate about proceeding farther: we would therefore recommend that you exert the utmoſt diligence in endeavouring to procure the names of ſuch of the civilians as have been moſt active in ſtirring up this mutinous diſpoſition in the army, and have ſubſcribed to the ſum to be collected for maintenance of the officers: but we think your enquiries ſhould be conducted with all caution and privacy; and we particularly requeſt you will be attentive in what hands you entruſt ſuch letters as you may receive from us upon this ſubject.

Mean time you may be aſſured that we ſhall act with the conſtancy that prudence and the ſituation of affairs will authorize.

We are, &c.

Mootejyl,
5th May 1766.

Clive.
John Carnac.
Fra' Sykes.

No. 26.

No. 26.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to ſir Robert Fletcher, dated at Mootejyl, the 5th May, 1766.

SIR,

Upon the receipt of yours laſt night, the officers letter was diſpatched to the council at Fort William, and we expect their anſwer before we ſhall be able to reach Monghyr.

It is impoſſible for us to be certain that a ſpirit of mutiny has not been diffuſed amongſt the men, and indeed it would be highly imprudent to aſſure ourſelves of their moderation; I therefore deſire you will, with the utmoſt ſecrecy, get in readineſs a ſufficient number of coolies for the removing of baggage, and that you will purſue every thing (ſo far as it can be done without ſuſpicion) for detaching the troops in ſmall parties at a moment's warning. You will likewiſe, with the ſame caution of privacy, endeavour to collect boats for tranſporting the officers to Calcutta. I am determined they ſhall depart from Monghyr, upon twenty-four hours notice; and I doubt not but the officers I bring with me will be able to keep the men, when detached, to their duty, until the commiſſions are all filled up. Sir Robert Barker has expreſſed ſome apprehenſions that the men of your brigade are not to be depended upon; I ſhould be glad to have again your opinion upon that matter: you cannot however be too doubtful in a point ſo eſſential, nor act with too much circumſpection, provided you avoid ſhewing that you ſuſpect their fidelity.

General Carnac thinks, that if his and ſir Robert Barker's brigade were, for the preſent, to be formed

formed into one, we ſhould find the men ſufficiently officered. But it is a queſtion, whether the only evil to be dreaded would not be encreaſed by ſuch a meaſure, as it would bring a larger number together. Be pleaſed to give us your opinion immediately.

If before our arrival there ſhould be any occaſion to put the behaviour of the ſergeants and corporals to the teſt, you have our authority to endeavour to ſecure them, by aſſurances of very handſome gratuities.

Mootejyl,
5th May, 1766.

I am, &c.

Clive.

No. 27.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to ſir Robert Barker, dated at Mootejyl, the 5th May 1766.

Dear ſir,

I have received yours of the 30th April. By this time I conclude the officers have actually preſented their commiſſions, and will have heard that thoſe of the firſt brigade have done the ſame.

In a late letter, you ſaid you was under no apprehenſions of a mutiny among the men: I cannot however propoſe that we ſhould depend upon them. You muſt by all means get every thing in readineſs to detach them in ſmall parties, without their ſuſpecting the reaſon for dividing them. I would alſo have you prepare (privately) a ſufficient number of boats for tranſporting the officers to Calcutta; for we have deſired the opinion of the board, and imagine they will adviſe a general diſmiſſion.

Let

Let me know whether you think it would be proper, for the preſent, to form your brigade and the firſt into one: whether the men would in that caſe be ſufficiently officered by thoſe who are not in the aſſociation; and whether ſomething might not be to be dreaded from ſuch a junction.

I dare ſay it muſt have occurred to you, to have an eye upon the non-commiſſioned officers. You will uſe your utmoſt endeavours to preſerve their attachment, by aſſuring them of handſome gratuities, in caſe there ſhould be any occaſion to put their good behaviour to the trial.

I am &c.

Mootejyl, 5th May 1766. Clive.

No. 28.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to ſir Robert Fletcher, dated at Mootejyl, the 6th May, 1766.

SIR,

I have received yours of the 2d inſtant. If you continue in the conviction that no mutiny of the men is to be apprehended, I deſire you will immediately ſecure, and ſend down priſoners to Calcutta, ſome of your captains who have been the moſt active. Majors Champion and Polier, captains Smith, Pearſon, and Martin, are now on the road to Monghyr. They are to follow ſuch orders as they may receive from you. I ſhall ſet out this afternoon.

I am, &c.

Mootejyl,
6th May, 1766.

Clive.

No. 29.

Copy of ſir Robert Barker's letter to lord Clive, dated at Bankipore, the 1ſt May, 1765.

My lord,

This morning the officers, whoſe names I encloſe to your lordſhip, ſent their commiſſions to me in a letter; which I returned to them, with an aſſurance of putting the ſeverity of military law in execution, if any of them miſbehaved. They talk of waiting till the fifteenth of this month. Four of theſe gentlemen I ſhall ſend down, the reſt I believe will be heartily ſorry for what they have done; however I can point out to your lordſhip the moſt active.

Monghyr I am the moſt alarmed at. I wiſh thoſe gentlemen may not bring on themſelves much trouble.

It will be neceſſary, my lord, to order up, poſt haſte, all ſuch officers as are not in the plot, I therefore ſend your lordſhip a liſt of thoſe of my brigade whoſe commiſſions were not tendered.

I am, &c.

Bankipore,
1ſt May, 1766.

Rob^t Barker.

No. 30.

Copy of ſir Robert Fletcher's letter to lord Clive, dated at Monghyr, the 3d May, 1766.

My lord,

I have this moment been honoured by your lordſhip's letter of the 29th ultimo, encloſing your addreſs to council, and the extract of the Com-

Company's general letter; but as you expreſsly ſay, "that whoever reſigns his commiſſion on "this occaſion ſhall never have it reſtored," I do not think myſelf at liberty to return the commiſſions, even were the officers inclined to accept them. On the contrary, when I had uſed every argument in my power, particularly with thoſe whom I brought into the ſervice, and with whom I thought I could have done any thing, aſſuring them that officers would ſpeedily be ſent from the other preſidencies; that free merchants, and others, would be encouraged to accept the ſervice, repreſenting exactly what your lordſhip hath ſaid of the king's ſervice, and the loſs of their half pay, and that every man of them would certainly be ſent to Europe; I ſay, when I had urged all thoſe reaſons for a change of conduct, I was told by them ſeverally, that they were determined, to a man, to abide by what they had done. I am now preparing boats, as I have told them, to tranſport them to Calcutta; for which purpoſe I have aſſured them, that I hourly expect an order from your lordſhip. Should this be the caſe, I think I can anſwer for keeping the brigade in order and diſcipline until we get a ſupply of other officers. I requeſt that your lordſhip will ſeal and forward the accompanying letter to my brother, written in conſequence of a piece of intelligence that I received this morning at breakfaſt.

I am, &c.

Monghyr,
3d May, 1766.

Rob[t] Fletcher.

No. 31.

Copy of a committee letter to the council at Fort William, dated at Sydokbaug, the 6th May, 1766.

Gentlemen,

We have juſt received intelligence, that the diſcontented officers have written, or intend to write, to the gentlemen of the army on the Coaſt, repreſenting the impoſſibility of their ſubſiſting upon this eſtabliſhment, and adviſing them to reject any propoſals that preſidency may make to them for their removal to Bengal. We therefore think it neceſſary to requeſt you will, for a time, ſtop the private letters to and from Madraſs, except ſuch as you may have reaſon to conclude cannot relate to the ſubject abovementioned. We likewiſe beg leave to propoſe the like meaſure with reſpect to Moratbaug, Monghyr, Patna, and Allahabad. A communication of ſentiments from one part of the army to another, whilſt the preſent combination ſubſiſts, we think extremely dangerous; we have therefore thought proper to detain at Mootejyl all ſuſpected correſpondence, and ſhall continue to do ſo till we think it will be no longer neceſſary.

We are, &c.

Clive.
John Carnac.
Fr' Sykes.

Sydokbaug,
6th May, 1766.

P. S. Majors Champion and Polier, with captains Pearſon, Smith, and Martin, are gone forward. We are following with all expedition, and hope to reach Monghyr by the 13th inſtant.

No.

No. 32.

Copy of ſir Robert Fletcher's letter to lord Clive, dated at Monghyr, the 4th May 1766.

My lord,

I have again taken an opportunity of ſpeaking to ſome of the officers, particularly ſuch as have the moſt influence, and are, I may ſay, the tribunes of the reſt; but I find that fair arguments, without the reſtoration of the batta, ſerve only to inflame them more. The ſtate of their diſpoſitions is ſuch, that a diſſolution of this combination, if any can take place, muſt, I think, be the effect of their fears and apprehenſions of what may befall them hereafter, rather than any other conſideration whatever; and ſo great a change of ſentiments ſeems to require time, and cooler reflection than they will at preſent allow themſelves. They flatter and pleaſe themſelves with a perſuaſion, that the troops cannot be kept together without them, and that their letters to Madraſs will infuſe the ſame ſpirit among the officers there; and to confirm the former opinion, the moſt artful methods have been uſed to make me believe that a mutiny is already planned, and muſt inevitably happen, if the officers are diſmiſſed. This was communicated to me on ſuch ſly conditions, that I am not at liberty to ſay more of the matter. Yeſterday, when I mentioned your lordſhip's determination to ſend to Madraſs for officers, I found great reaſon to believe, that a confirmation thereof would make them quit the troops immediately. Sir Robert Barker writes me, that he has refuſed the commiſſions at

Bankipore; but I am apt to think that that will only ſtrengthen their reſolutions.

Monghyr, 4th May, 1766.

I am, &c.

Rob^t Fletcher.

P. S. The king's officers will not believe they can loſe their half pay.—They ſay the Company have broke their conditions with them, by depriving them of that which induced them to accept the ſervice, which is a ſufficient reaſon for their reſignation.

No. 33.

Copy of lord Clive's anſwer to the above letter, dated the 7th May, 1766, at ——

SIR,

I received yours of the 4th inſtant this morning, by which I find there is ſome foundation for a ſuſpicion, that the ſoldiers of your brigade may be troubleſome. Sir Robert Barker has intimated to me his apprehenſions of them, though he ſeems to entertain no doubts of his own men. In my letter of yeſterday, I deſired you would ſend away ſome of the moſt active officers, provided you had no reaſon to think a mutiny would follow. Should you have the leaſt apprehenſion of ſuch an event, I would have you ſecure the fidelity of ſome of the moſt truſty ſergeants, by promiſing them gratuities to the amount of two or even three thouſand rupees each. The ſubahdars, or commanding officers of the black troops, you will likewiſe promiſe largely to, in caſe of the ſame emergency. With the aſſiſtance of majors

majors Champion and Polier, and captains Smith and Pearſon, I hope you will be able to keep matters quiet till our arrival. Thoſe gentlemen expect to be with you by the 12th at fartheſt, and I ſhall probably arrive on the 13th. I bring with me captains M'Pherſon, Hill, Carnac, and Graham, and lieutenant Butler.

I am, &c.

7th May, 1766.

Clive.

No. 34.

Extract of a letter from lord Clive to ſir Robert Barker, dated at Furrukah Chowrah, 8th May, 1766.

I have ſeen your letter to the general, and at the ſame time received one from captain Watſon; but I muſt confeſs the nature of his propoſal appears to me almoſt incomprehenſible.

Will men ſo abandoned to all ſenſe of honour (and who ſtill perſevere in ſupporting acts of mutiny and deſertion) when they have obtained one point, ceaſe there?—Hiſtory can furniſh but few inſtances of that nature: for my own part, I muſt ſee the ſoldiers bayonets levelled at my throat, before I can be induced to give way; and then, not ſo much for the preſervation of my own life, as the temporary ſalvation of the Company:—Temporary only it can be, for I ſhall think Bengal in the utmoſt danger, when we are reduced to the neceſſity of ſubmitting the civil power to the mercy of men who have gone lengths that will aſtoniſh all England.

With me it is beyond a doubt, that if the officers do not reſolve to ſubmit, and acknowledge their crime, ruin and deſtruction muſt equally be their lot, whether they ſucceed or not; and if arguments of this kind can make no impreſſion, none will. I cannot help thinking more evil is ſtill intended.

You have frequently informed me that you apprehend nothing from the men; if this point can be gained by any means, or any offers, the ſooner the officers depart the better.

Champion, Polier, Pearſon, and Smith, are puſhing on for Monghyr, and will be there the 12th. Myſelf, the general, captains Hill, Graham, Martin, M'Pherſon, and ſome others, follow, and hope to reach ſir Robert by the 14th. Major Fiſcher, Ironſide, and many others, muſt be upon their march long before this, in conſequence of my orders from Mootejyl.

No. 35.

Copy of ſir Robert Fletcher's letter to lord Clive, dated at Monghyr, the 6th May, 1766.

My lord,

I have received your lordſhip's letter, dated the 3d inſtant; in conſequence, I have ſent captain Wilding and lieutenant Petrie to Calcutta, upon ſuſpicion of their being among the moſt active in forming the combination. I cannot learn for certain, that the commiſſions were depoſited in the hands of one particular perſon; they were left at my quarters on the morning of the 1ſt inſtant, by a black fellow; and although ſome of the officers ſeem to have great influence with the reſt,

yet

yet I am perſuaded every precaution has been taken to conceal the principals.

I am, &c.

Monghyr,
6th May, 1766.

Rob^t Fletcher.

No. 36.

Copy of a letter from the council at Fort William to ſir Robert Fletcher, dated at Fort William, 6th May, 1766.

SIR,

The addreſs to you, from the officers of the firſt brigade, which you tranſmitted in your letter to the preſident the 1ſt inſtant, may produce ſurpriſe, but cannot ſhake that firmneſs with which we are determined to purſue every meaſure we think conducive to the intereſt of our conſtituents, and neceſſary to our own honour. That gentlemen, riſen to the rank of captains upon the military eſtabliſhment, and who now enjoy greater advantages, and receive more pay, than field officers in any other ſervice in the world, ſhould ſubſcribe to an unmilitary diſhonourable combination, to diſtreſs the government by which they are ſupported, will certainly be no recommendation to his majeſty's ſervice, and it will be our care that ſuch conduct be faithfully reported to the Court of Directors, to be laid by them before the ſecretary at war.

We are even aſtoniſhed at the complaints of the ſubalterns, who had certainly not reflected upon the ſituation of his majeſty's ſubaltern officers, when they ſubſcribed to this letter of reſignation: let their pay be compared, and it will appear, they bear no manner of proportion, after all

all allowances are made for the difference of climates, and the different nature of the ſervices.

Whatever plea there may be for the conduct of the officers of the battalion, there ſurely can be no excuſe for thoſe who enjoy double poſts, or thoſe who are attached to the ſeapoys.

Theſe remarks we offer, not with a view of perſuading them to alter a reſolution that may ſubject the ſervice to ſome inconvenience; on the contrary, we deſire you will accept of all ſuch other commiſſions as are offered; and we farther direct, that you will order down to Calcutta, within the ſpace of twenty-four hours, all thoſe who have already reſigned, ſince we can place no great confidence in the zeal of men who have deſerted their duty, in a manner inconſiſtent with the character of officers and gentlemen; for whatever they may think of the ſervice, we are convinced that perſons of equal merit will be glad to accept it upon the preſent footing.

Humanity obliges us to be truly ſorry, that the raſhneſs of a few ſhould have precipitated into ruin, a number of gentlemen who might, in a ſhort ſpace of time, have acquired fortunes with reputation and honour; and who will now find that they have forfeited a ſervice ſuperior, even in its reduced condition, to any ſtation in life to which they can poſſibly form pretenſions.

Fort William,
6th May 1766.

We are &c.

No. 35.

No. 37.

Copy of a letter from the council at Fort William to the preſident and council at Fort St. George, dated at Fort William, 6th May 1766.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

The apprehenſions we communicated to you the firſt inſtant, of the officers having entered into a combination to reſign their commiſſions, unleſs double batta ſhould be reſtored, have proved too well founded; lord Clive and the gentlemen at Mootejyl having forwarded to us a letter to ſir Robert Fletcher, commanding the firſt brigade, ſigned by forty-two of the officers, encloſing their commiſſions, and declaring their reſolution to act without pay or allowance whatever, from the 1ſt inſtant until the 15th, when they would quit the army, if their unſoldierly mutinous demands were not complied with. A copy of our letter to ſir Robert Fletcher upon this occaſion, which comes encloſed, will ſhew you the ſteps we are unanimouſly determined to purſue, notwithſtanding we have reaſon to expect that the officers of the other brigades will follow their example.

On every critical occaſion, when the public ſervice required it, we have ever experienced a ready aſſiſtance from you gentlemen. The preſent emergency too loudly calls for our united efforts; and our dependance on your zeal, you may imagine, has greatly influenced, and given ſtrength to our reſolute determination on this occaſion; we muſt, therefore, requeſt you will, without loſs of time, ſend to us all the officers, cadets,

cadets, and others, agreeable to our letter of the 1ſt, a triplicate of which comes encloſed.

We are, &c.

W. B. Sumner.
Harry Verelſt.
Randolph Marriott.
Hugh Watts.
Claud Ruſſell.
Wm Alderſey.
Thoˢ Kelſall.
Chaˢ Floyer.

Fort William,
6th May 1766.

No. 38.

Extract from conſultations, 7th May 1766.

The board taking into conſideration the general combination among the officers, and the probability there appears, from the violent and determined reſolution with which they ſeem to perſevere in it, of almoſt the whole reſigning, which might poſſibly ſhake the fidelity of the private men, unleſs ſome perſons, on whom we can depend, be immediately appointed to command them; and there being at preſent many free merchants, who may be willing to diſtinguiſh their zeal for the ſervice on this emergency, it is agreed, that the following propoſals be made to them:

To engage to ſerve for twelve months certain; in the mean time, if we ſhould be provided with officers for the occaſions of the ſervice, from England or the other preſidencies, they ſhall be at liberty to reſign, but not without the concurrence of the preſident and council; and it is left

in

in their own option, whether or not to continue on the military eſtabliſhment.

And it is propoſed, for the encouragement of ſuch gentlemen who may engage in the military ſervice on this occaſion, that ſuch as may ſerve ſix months ſhall have the privilege of a duſtuck for the ſpace of eighteen months, from the day of their firſt application for the ſame; and ſuch as may ſerve twelve months to have the ſame privilege for three years. They ſhall alſo, if deſirous of it, be recommended to the Court of Directors for ſtations on the eſtabliſhment.

The preſident is accordingly deſired to communicate the ſame to the free merchants, and to requeſt of ſuch as may engage, to proceed immemediately to lord Clive, who will ſettle the rank they are to hold on the military eſtabliſhment.

Extract from conſultations, 9th May 1766.

The preſident informs the board, that in conſequence of a reſolution of the 7th inſtant, regarding ſuch free merchants as might be diſpoſed to contribute their aſſiſtance on the preſent diſaffection of the officers, Meſſrs. Dyneley and Drinkell are the only perſons who have offered their ſervice, all the others having pleaded ſickneſs, or ſome other excuſe.

No. 39.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to ſir Robert Fletcher, dated Siccaragully, 10th May, 1766.

SIR,

I am glad to find by yours of the 8th inſtant, which I received here this morning, that you are ſtill

ſtill confident no mutiny will ariſe amongſt the troops.

Encloſed is a letter to you from the governor and council, by which you will ſee how determined we are to act with firmneſs upon the preſent occaſion. Blank ſpaces were left for the ſignatures of general Carnac, Mr. Sykes, and myſelf, in order to manifeſt the unanimous reſolution of the whole board. It would be proper, I think, that you ſhould intimate to the officers your having ſuch a letter in your poſſeſſion; but before you produce it in public, I would have you try what can be done with the ſubalterns, for I would conſent to keep moſt of them in the ſervice, provided they can be brought to repent of their combination; but as to the captains, I am ſteady in my determination to diſmiſs them all.

The roads are ſo bad, from the great quantity of rain, which fell laſt night, that our progreſs to day has been leſs than intended. We ſhall, however, be with you as ſoon as poſſible.

I am, &c.

Siccaragully, 10th May, 1766. Clive.

P. S. You may as well not make the letter from the governor and council public, excepting ſo far as to anſwer the abovementioned purpoſe, before my arrival.

No. 40.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to ſir Robert Barker, dated at Siccaragully, 10th May, 1766.

SIR,

Encloſed is a copy of a letter, now forwarded to ſir Robert Fletcher, by which you will be

made acquainted with the unanimous reſolution of the whole board. It may not be amiſs for you to intimate what is written to the officer commanding the firſt brigade, and that you expect to receive the like orders. If the ſubalterns can be brought to a juſt ſenſe of duty and honour, I would readily conſent to reſtore moſt of them their commiſſions; but the captains ſhall every man be abſolutely diſmiſſed the ſervice.

I am, &c.

Siccaragully, 10th May, 1766. Clive.

No. 41.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to colonel Smith, dated at Shahabad, 11th May, 1766.

SIR,

The members of the ſelect committee being at preſent ſo diſperſed that they cannot form a board, and your letter to them of the 29th of April, which met me this morning on the road, requiring an immediate anſwer, I think proper to write to you myſelf, as commander in chief of the forces.

It was intimated to you in a late letter, that your return to Allahabad, upon the approach of the Morattoes, might carry too much the appearance of a retreat: for this, and other material reaſons mentioned in your laſt, I entirely approve your having ſuſpended the prior reſolution, and encamping for the preſent at Serrajepore. You have my authority to preſerve the poſt you are now poſſeſſed of, till the motions of the Morattoes ſhall admit of your march to Allahabad. Should they advance to the frontiers, you will

act

act in the manner you may judge moſt defenſible for the provinces of Corah, and Sujah Dowla's dominions. You will likewiſe enter into and conclude ſuch treaties, with any of the adjacent powers, as you may think the emergency of affairs in thoſe parts may require. I do not, however, imagine that an incurſion will be attempted ſo late in the ſeaſon, eſpecially into the nabob's country, which is ſo well ſecured by the Ganges.

My letter of the 2d inſtant appriſed you of a combination formed by the officers of the third brigade. I am now to acquaint you, that they have actually tranſmitted their commiſſions (to the amount of fifty) in a letter of reſignation to the governor and council. As the letter met me upon the road, I peruſed and forwarded it, reſerving the pacquet of commiſſions in my own hands, to reſtore them as occaſion might require. The captains, indeed, I am determined ſhall all be diſmiſſed, but moſt of the ſubalterns, excepting thoſe who are double poſted and attached to the ſeapoys, may be reſtored to the ſervice, if they can be brought to a juſt ſenſe of duty and honour. The gentlemen of the firſt brigade have thought proper to conduct themſelves in a ſimilar manner, and forty at leaſt of them have ſent in their commiſſions to ſir Robert Fletcher, acquainting him that they ſhall draw no pay for this month, but will ſerve as volunteers till the 15th inſtant, when they are reſolved to quit, unleſs the old allowance of double batta be reſtored to them. The encloſed copy of a letter from the governor and council to ſir Robert Fletcher, will fully inform you of our invariable reſolution upon this occaſion. The ſame will undoubtedly be perſevered in with regard to ſir Robert Barker's brigade. I have been thus particular, in order that

that you might not be unacquainted with the proceedings below, as they may enable you to foreſee the conſequences of a like combination amongſt the officers of your brigade. It is confidently aſſerted that every officer under your command, except two, have ſigned an agreement to reſign, from the ſame motives urged at Patna and Monghyr. But as you are entirely ſilent upon the ſubject, and the troops upon actual ſervice, I entertain ſome hopes that the gentlemen with you have more honour than to join in ſuch a mutinous and unmilitary aſſociation. It is neceſſary, however, that you ſhould be prepared how to act upon ſo diſagreeable an event, if it ſhould happen. Whilſt an enemy threatens to approach, I conclude it abſolutely impracticable to part with your officers, ſince their commiſſions cannot be inſtantly ſupplied. In caſe, therefore, the Morattoes ſhould ſtill appear to intend an invaſion, or in caſe you apprehend a mutiny among the troops, but in no other caſe, you have my authority to make terms with the officers of your brigade, upon their tendering their commiſſions. The critical juncture will, I think, render ſuch a ſubmiſſion on your part unavoidable for the preſent, if they ſhould dare to take ſuch a ſtep, which I ſhould imagine they would not, as they are now in the field, and conſequently receive double batta. Beſides, it is hardly to be ſuſpected that they would expoſe themſelves to the hazard of a general court martial, by deſerting their poſts in the very face of the enemy; although their not having entered into a contract to ſerve for a limited time may, by conſtruction of the mutiny act, which certainly ſuppoſes ſuch a contract to ſubſiſt, give them hopes of eſcaping the ſeverity of martial law.

I have written to all abſent officers, who have not ſigned their reſignation, to meet me at Monghyr, provided they are not concerned in the combination. I am haſtening thither with fourteen or fifteen, who will be ſtaunch in the cauſe of diſcipline; and on my arrival I am reſolved to diſpatch every captain to Calcutta. A captain, a captain-lieutenant, and an enſign, of ſir Robert Barker's brigade, and a captain-lieutenant of ſir Robert Fletcher's, have been put under arreſt as principals, and are now on their voyage to the preſidency, where I propoſe they ſhall remain priſoners, 'till a council of field officers determine what farther proceſs ſhould be had againſt them. To give way to ſo mutinous a ſpirit, except in your particular ſituation, were to ſubvert all military ſubordination, ſuperſede the civil authority, and finally to relinquiſh the company's valuable poſſeſſions in Bengal.

A very unexpected event came to our knowledge the night before laſt; this was no other than the death of the nabob. On the 6th inſtant he paid us a viſit at Sydokbaug, and was then much out of order: on the 8th he died of that ſort of fever which affects the noſe. No diſturbances, however, can ariſe: Syfa Dowla, the next brother, will, I ſuppoſe, be put upon the Muſnud, as ſoon as Mr. Sykes receives orders from Calcutta to that purpoſe, and in the mean time the affairs of the government will be carried on, as uſual, by the miniſtry.

Before I conclude, I muſt again mention that you are not to make any terms with the diſcontented officers of your brigade, except the Morattoes ſhould be marching againſt you, and except you have good reaſon to conclude that a mutiny

of

of the men will be the conſequence of the deſertion of their officers.

Shahabad, 11th May, 1766.

I am, &c.

Clive.

No. 42.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to ſir Robert Fletcher, dated on the banks of the Tyrmohonny Nulla, the 13th May, 1766.

Sir,

The bridge over this Nulla is carried away by the ſudden fall of waters from the mountains; and the ſtream continues ſo rapid, that it is impoſſible to paſs. Had it not been for this accident, I muſt have been at Monghyr by the 14th inſtant, but now I have no expectations of ſeeing you till the 15th. The officers will, I hope, remain upon duty till my arrival; if you find they will not, the letter from the governor and council will inſtruct you how to act.

Your favour of the 10th leaves me without a doubt of the diſpoſition of the men.

On the banks of the Tyrmohonny Nulla, 13th May, 1766.

I am, &c.

Clive.

P. S. I have this moment received yours of the 11th. With regard to detaching the troops, I leave it entirely to your diſcretion, as you upon the ſpot muſt be the beſt judge of the expediency of ſuch a meaſure.

Clive.

No. 43.

Copy of ſir Robert Fletcher's letter to lord Clive, dated at Monghyr, the 14th of May, 1766.

My lord,

I have been honoured with your lordſhip's letter of the 10th, accompanied by an anſwer from the governor and council to the officers addreſs to me of the 1ſt inſtant; and you may be aſſured that I ſhall uſe my utmoſt diligence in endeavouring to keep the beſt of the ſubalterns of this brigade. I have this day begun the embarkation of the captains; and, to convince the ſubalterns that it is out of their power to leave us entirely deſtitute of officers, by adhering to their reſolution of carrying their point to the utmoſt, I have appointed five enſigns; viz. Mr. Crawford, a ſurgeon's aſſiſtant, two cadets, and two ſergeants. This, I think, may not only ſerve to ſhake their determination of proceeding to Calcutta, but will incite an emulation among the other ſergeants, who may expect to be rewarded in proportion as they behave themſelves.

Monghyr,
14th May, 1766.

I am, &c.

Rob^t. Fletcher.

No. 44.

Copy of a ſecond letter from ſir Robert Fletcher to lord Clive, of the ſame date with the above.

My lord,

I am this moment honoured by your lordſhip's letter of the 13th, and I have, in conſequence, aſked the officers to do duty a day longer. Some of them begin now to be very troubleſome; and,

as far as I can find, they are reſolved to encamp by themſelves, until the arrival of the officers of the other brigades, ſo that I fear force muſt at laſt be uſed. I have not yet received their anſwer.

Monghyr,
14th May, 1766, 1 P. M.

I am, &c.

Robt. Fletcher.

No. 45.

Copy of a third letter from ſir Robert Fletcher to lord Clive, of the ſame date with the above.

My lord,

The officers have abſolutely refuſed to ſerve an hour longer. During their laſt conſultations to-day, the regiment got under arms, and the artillery were doing the ſame, and at firſt ſeemed determined to follow the officers; but when I began to ſpeak to them, they aſſured me, they had been made to believe, that I was to head them; otherwiſe, not a man would have thought of turning out; adding, if that was not the caſe, they would not mind the officers, but live and die with me alone. While I was talking to the men, ſeveral of the officers came to the parade, and told me, that as they heard the Europeans had mutinied, they were willing to offer me their aſſiſtance; but I abſolutely refuſed, in the face of the whole regiment, to have one of them, and ordered the whole to quit the garriſon within the ſpace of two hours, under pain of being ſent off with guards. They are now, I believe, all gone.

Some have been very troubleſome, and particularly thoſe whom I have all along ſuſpected, and whoſe confidence I uſed every art to gain, in January laſt, when I heard that the whole were to form a plan of quitting the brigades, without

giving any warning. I even went ſo far as to approve of ſome of their ſchemes, that they might do nothing without my knowledge. Several had this morning agreed to remain, at my requeſt: but the reſt began to ſuſpect them, and they told me they were really in danger of their lives, if they did not proceed to Calcutta.

Monghyr,
14th May, 1766, 8 P. M.

I am, &c.

Robt. Fletcher.

P. S. Lieut. Shrimpton is ſtill here ſick, and has agreed to ſtay. He is the beſt of the whole, and much of a gentleman.

No. 46.

Copy of a letter from ſir Robert Barker to lord Clive, dated Bankipore, May 15th, 1766, 9 o'clock.

Your lordſhip's favours of 5th and 10th, I received yeſterday.

This day the officers departed from their cantonments, notwithſtanding which the regiment and ſeapoys appear as well diſpoſed and regular as I ever ſaw them; indeed, the men of the regiment have been overheard to declare, that if the officers were to leave me by myſelf, they would ſtand by me to a man.

I think, in the diſpoſition our are people at preſent, I could march againſt any diſaffected ſet of people with ſucceſs.

I am, my lord,

Your lordſhip's, &c.

(ſigned) R. Barker.

P. S.

P. S. There is an oath taken, I am informed, by all the officers reſigning, to preſerve with their lives the ſecurity of the life of each individual. This oath has prevented numbers from returning to their duty, as they are apprehenſive they may be obliged to officiate in meaſures contrary to their oath.

No. 47.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to colonel Smith, dated at Monghyr, the 15th of May, 1766.

Sir,

I have received your letter addreſſed to the Select Committee, by which I am informed of the mutinous behaviour of the officers of your brigade, and incloſing your general orders, in conſequence of ſeveral officers preſent, and upon actual ſervice, and almoſt in the face of an enemy, deſiring leave to reſign their commiſſions.

Such a conduct, at ſuch a juncture, does theſe officers as much diſhonour as your ſpirited and ſoldierlike behaviour does you honour; and I am perſuaded the whole board will join with me in acknowledging your ſervices upon this very intereſting occaſion.

My laſt letter will be a guide for you how to act. Time and circumſtances muſt be conſidered; but, that you may not be ignorant of what is going on in the other brigades, I muſt inform you, that on the 7th, the general and I, with ſeveral other officers, ſet out from Sydokbaug, and ſent forward majors Champion and Polier, captains Smith and Pearſon, who arrived here on the 11th. We ſhould have been here ourſelves by the 13th at night, or 14th in the morning, but the heavy rains filled the Nullas ſo conſiderably,

that we could not reach Monghyr before this morning. Yeſterday afternoon, upon my having ordered all the captains down to Calcutta, the officers became very riotous; and whilſt they were holding their laſt conſultations, the men began to get under arms, declaring they would follow their officers; but upon captain Smith's marching down with a battalion of ſeapoys, and ſir Robert Fletcher's haranguing them, they declared they underſtood all the officers were leaving the fort, headed by the commander; but upon being aſſured to the contrary, they promiſed to behave as ſoldiers ought, and retired quietly to their barracks. The black ſeapoy officers, as well as men, have given great proofs of fidelity and ſteadineſs upon this occaſion; and ſo long as they remain ſo, nothing is to be apprehended from the European ſoldiery, even if they ſhould be mutinouſly inclined. Sir Robert Fletcher, having had reaſon to ſuſpect ſome of the officers were concerned in ſtirring up the men, turned them all out of the fort; they are now encamped at the diſtance of three miles, and I have ordered them to depart to-morrow morning.

The day after to-morrow, the general and myſelf, with ten or twelve officers, proceed with all expedition to Patna; and after having ſettled every thing there, we ſhall proceed to Benares and Allahabad. Our chief anxiety is, leaſt this diſaffection, if known to the Morattoes, ſhould encourage them to commit hoſtilities. We expect fifteen officers from Calcutta; and I hope we ſhall be able to ſupply you in time with a ſufficient number to keep your brigade in order until we receive relief from the Coaſt.

It

It would be proper, I think, for you to make known to your brigade, that I have lately lodged to the amount of near ſeventy thouſand pounds (a legacy left me by Meer Jaffier) in the company's caſh, the intereſt of which I have eſtabliſhed as a fund for the ſupport of officers and men, who may be diſabled or worn out in the ſervice.

* To a colonel five hundred pounds per annum; to a lieutenant-colonel, three hundred pounds; to a major, two hundred pounds; to a captain, one hundred and fifty pounds; to a lieutenant, one hundred pounds; to an enſign, ſeventy pounds; to a ſergeant, twenty pounds; to a coporal, fifteen pounds; and ten pounds to a private man; a part of which penſions is to be continued to their widows.

I have not yet acknowledged the receipt of your letter to the Select committee of the 5th inſtant; I ſhall approve of your remaining in the field to the laſt moment.

Monghyr,
15th May, 1766.

I am, &c.

Clive.

No. 48.

Copy of lord Clive's letter to clonel Smith, dated at Monghyr, the 16th May, 1766.

Sir,

In my letter of laſt night, I forgot to mention that you might perhaps, on this occaſion, judge it neceſſary to put a few very deſerving ſergeants in commiſſion; that meaſure I leave entirely to your diſcretion.

* This eſtabliſhment was afterwards differently regulated by the company.

The

The principal point you have to guard is the fidelity of the men. If you diſcover they have been tampered with, or have good reaſon to ſuſpect that any attempts will be made to ſeduce them, the officers ſhould not be permitted to ſtay ſo long as the firſt of June; the ſooner you get rid of them the better; and therefore you had beſt bring them to an immediate declaration upon that ſubject.

I have this morning had all the troops at Monghyr under arms, and made them a ſpeech on the occaſion. The ſeapoys are very firmly attached to their duty; and I am now confident that the Europeans likewiſe will give us no cauſe of complaint or apprehenſion. In ſhort, every thing here is as quiet and as well regulated as could be wiſhed.

Monghyr,
16th May, 1766.

I am, &c.

Clive.

No. 49.

Copy of colonel Smith's letter to lord Clive, dated at camp, in the lines of Serrajepore, 17th of May, 1766.

My lord,

Already I have tranſmitted you a copy of my letter to the officers of the ſecond regiment; encloſed you will receive a copy of their anſwer. I am by no means ſurprized at it, however extraordinary; for after they have forgot their duty to the public, what can their commanding officers expect? Thoſe whom I firſt ſent from the army having been deſervedly reproached, have endeavoured to make a reproach, intended for themſelves, to be regarded as general. The meaſures

ſures I have purſued, my own conſcience approves: if I had twenty lives, I would ſacrifice them all to ſupport the civil adminiſtration; for this appears the criſis.

I have been obliged to detach the 8th battalion of ſeapoys, at the requeſt of major Smith, to march with all expedition to Allahabad, as he is apprehenſive of ſome diſturbances, after the officers have left the troops. I have forbid them at their peril to leave Allahabad, without my permiſſion. If they do put their reſolution into practice, I have directed the major to adviſe your lordſhip of this, or any thing extraordinary that may happen. The 8th battalion of ſeapoys will be at Allahabad the 20th, at midnight; after which I ſhall be perfectly eaſy on the ſubject of mutiny from the regiments.

Lieutenant Vertue has diſobeyed the major's orders of arreſt, and ſays he had my conſent to quit the camp, and that I received his commiſſion: this I hope will beſt appear at a general court martial.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Camp in the lines of Serrajepore,
the 17th May, 1766. Richard Smith.

No. 50.

Copy of an anonymous letter to lieutenant Farmer, at Bankipore, dated New Fort, 6th May 1766.

Dear ſir,

This waits to acquaint you of the unwelcome reception of the remonſtrance ſent in by the third brigade. They have made an advantage of its being

ing without date; by which they conclude it was done without the conſent or knowledge of ſir Robert Barker: there are ſeveral other circumſtances, which they have pulled to pieces, and are making it as bad as poſſible. We all glory in the military, for we hear they have put their commiſſions in a box, and have preſented them to his lordſhip. I do not doubt but that you have heard of the five lacks he has given to the military; a generous ſoul, to break their heads firſt, and then give them a plaiſter. I wiſh there was any good news to communicate; but no news is beſt news now a days: you will excuſe my ſigning my name, as I am liable to be ſuſpended ſhould this be opened, ſo will conclude myſelf,

Dear ſir, your, &c.

New Fort, 6th May, 1766.

No. 51.

Copy of a letter from lord Clive and general Carnac to the council at Fort William, dated at Bankipore, the 29th of May, 1766.

Gentlemen,

We have this inſtant received a letter from major Smith, at Allahabad; a copy of which comes encloſed. There needs no other proofs to convince you with how much inſolence, diſobedience, and diſreſpect, ſome of the officers have behaved; and what fatal conſequences would have happened to the Company, had we in any ſhape receded, or given up the leaſt point to ſuch a mutinous aſſociation.

The public declaration of all the officers, both at Monghyr and Patna, puts it beyond a doubt that many of the civilians have been deeply concerned

cerned in promoting the late combination, by encouraging them to perſevere in their pernicious ſcheme, and promiſing them ſupport and aſſiſtance: and if a ſubſcription hath not been ſet on foot for the maintenance of all thoſe officers who ſhould reſign their commiſſions, many of them will be greatly deceived, ſince they have been induſtriouſly taught to believe that they may depend upon a ſubſcription to the amount of one hundred and forty thouſand rupees.

It is ſome time ago that we judged it neceſſary to ſecure all the ſuſpicious correſpondence between Calcutta and the different brigades; and yeſterday, in packing up the intercepted letters, in order to ſend them down, we obſerved one which appeared to be in the hand-writing of Mr. Higginſon, the ſub-ſecretary, to enſign Robertſon, who hath been the principal ringleader of the ſecond brigade, and who received all the officers commiſſions. This circumſtance excited our ſuſpicions; and, upon opening the letter, we found them fully verified. That letter was diſpatched laſt night by the preſident to Mr. Verelſt, who will, without doubt, lay it before the board.

We beg leave to recommend to the council the opening of all ſuſpicious letters; every ſtate in the world takes that liberty upon ſuch dangerous occaſions; and we hope by that means this conſpiracy may be traced to the fountain head.

We will venture to affirm, that letters of the officers of the army in Great Britain tending to excite them to mutiny, on any account whatever, would be deemed treaſonable, and the authors condemned to die; ſurely then you will concur with us in opinion, that the ſevereſt puniſhment

niſhment our conſtitution will admit of, ought to be inflicted upon writers of letters of the like dangerous tendency in India.

We have the honour to be, &c.

Bankipore,
29th May, 1766.

Clive.
John Carnac.

No. 52.

Copy of an anonymous letter to enſign Robertſon of the third brigade, dated at Calcutta, the 6th May, 1766.

Dear Robertſon,

I wrote you laſt from Barraſet, a few days ago, in which I encloſed you a copy of a paper of Europe intelligence juſt received over land. Since when I am favoured with your letters of the 26th of March and 23d ultimo; the former by the hands of Mr. Read, accompanying the hookers and ſnakes, for your procuring of which I am much obliged to you. I alſo received from that gentleman the paper you mentioned to have ſent me by him, which I found to be the ſame as that I acknowledged the receipt of in a former letter. You ſeem, by your laſt letter, to have ſent me down a poetical verſion, in imitation of Horace, which I have not received, ſo fear it is gone the ſame way as many other letters have lately done —you may gueſs where. I ſincerely wiſh you and your ſociety all the ſucceſs you can imagine, but am afraid of being more particular at ſuch a critical time. We are here daily expecting to hear how your fate is to be decided, and many there are who are apprehenſive of deſperate meaſures being taken. If you have any thing particular

cular to write me, I think you had better do it in a diſguiſed hand, without your name ſigned to it, as I ſhall know who it comes from, and I will do the ſame by you. We hear that his l—— has determined to accept your commiſſions, and ſorry I am to tell you, that a report is current, that the whole board have concurred with him. Oh! what will not ambition and ſelf-intereſt lead many men to do? Be aſſured that I am with great eſteem ſincerely yours.

Calcutta, 6th May, 1766. A well-known Hand.

No. 53.

A copy of an anonymous letter to the officers of third brigade and army, without date.

You are very prudent, gentlemen, in acting as volunteers, a circumſtance that will highly pleaſe his lordſhip, and aſſiſt him in diſmiſſing you all, and to keep it a ſecret from the men, by whoſe aſſiſtance you can only be ſucceſsful: for if they do not join, he is fully reſolved not to give the point up to you, but accept of all commiſſions. What then will be the conſequence if he gets the better of this? Eternal ſlavery and bondage, with ſhame to you all.——Let the men join, and that will oblige him to come into your terms. You can always put a ſtop to them, before they do much miſchief: but take care your terms are moderate. What a pimp your c—l is, I wonder you don't flog him: can it be poſſible you have let Duffield, &c. be ſent to Calcutta? If you have, you are a daſtardly ſet. How will the civilians laugh at you if you don't get the better?

The

The following is a converſation between his lordſhip and the general, which ſend to the other brigades; I overheard it myſelf.

General. What will your lordſhip do with the army?

Clive. Hang one half for an example to the other.

General. How will you be provided with officers?

Clive. Send to Madraſs and Bombay for all they can ſpare; and make ſergeants and corporals for the preſent.

General. Our ſergeants and corporals will never do for officers.

Clive. They will do till we get better.

General. And when you have got better, what will your lordſhip do with them?

Clive. Why, reduce one half to their former ſtation, and for fear the other half ſhould be too ſtrong, I will order them to Calcutta, clap them on board ſhips, and ſend them to Bencoolen, where they ſhall do private duty, as before.

General. Your lordſhip will be liable to proſecutions at home.

Clive. I'll be d—d then; for I'll ſend ſuch inſtructions to the governor, that few ſhall remain to tell the ſtory.

General. If the men join, what will you do?

Clive. By G-d I muſt give them their own terms; but the gentlemen, by acting as volunteers, ſeem determined to prevent that. Let them do ſo a little while longer, and by G-d Ill do for them.

The above is an abſolute fact, but I cannot ſign, for fear of diſcovery; however, the light is

is not truer. For God's ſake act with ſpirit; elſe adieu, as military-men, to every thing!

Calcutta.

No. 54.

Copy of a letter from lord Clive and council to colonel Smith, dated at Fort William, 6th October, 1766.

SIR,

We are of opinion that the exiſtence of the Eaſt India company, in a great meaſure, depends upon the maintaining an indiſputable authority over their military officers; and many late inſtances have convinced us, that it is neceſſary every legal meaſure ſhould be adopted that can prevent the army, or any individuals thereof, from aſſuming an independency. The mutiny act being the only guide we have, whereby to determine the nature and intent of the military eſtabliſhment for the Eaſt Indies, we could not fail to recur to that act of parliament, as ſoon as we were made acquainted with the mutinous aſſociation of the officers. From hence it appeared evidently to the board, as it alſo did to lord Clive, and general Carnac, at Mootejyl, who ſignified the ſame to us, that the Company could have no ſecurity for the ſervices of their army, unleſs by the obligation of contracts. His lordſhip, even before the general reſignation took place, expreſſed his determination, that every officer ſhould, in future, enter into a contract to ſerve for a limited time; and his general orders of the 23d of June, from Chuprah, contain a

public declaration, that all thoſe who had reſigned, and might be reſtored, ſhould be obliged to bind themſelves to the ſervice, in future, by a contract. Lord Clive, however, was pleaſed to promiſe an exception with regard to ſuch gentlemen as had, by remaining firm to their duty, given ſufficient proofs that they needed no other tie than that of honour to bind them to the due obſervance of military diſcipline; and indeed, had no ſuch promiſe been made, the exception is in itſelf ſo equitable, that we could not reaſonably have rejected it, if an application had been made on that head, by any who had not deviated from their duty. Our abſolute determination now is, that the accompanying contract ſhall be executed without delay, by every officer reſpectively who reſigned the ſervice; and you are hereby directed to cauſe the ſame to be executed accordingly, ſignifying in public orders, an exception for the gentlemen who did not reſign, as a teſtimony of the ſenſe we entertain of their honourable and ſpirited conduct. You will, however, inform them, that, if they have no objection to join in the meaſure, the governor and council will conſider their compliance as a farther mark of their zeal for the ſervice; and the example ſet by you, will, we doubt not, have the deſired effect.

The officers in general are to be aſſured, that no officer ſhall ever be refuſed leave to reſign, except in ſuch a caſe as lately happened, where there appears a combination to diſtreſs the ſervice, and to force the governor and council into terms; or where the requeſt is made with a view

to

to evade an enquiry into any preceding miſconduct.

We are, Sir, &c.

Fort William,
6th October, 1766.

No. 55.

Copy of a contract, or engagement, to be ſigned by the military officers in the ſervice of the Eaſt-India Company.

Know all men by theſe preſents, that I A. B. for and in conſideration of a captain's commiſſion, in the ſervice of the honourable united company of merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies, to me given by the preſident and council of Fort William, in Bengal, in the Eaſt Indies; and the ſum of rupees to me in hand paid by the ſaid preſident and council, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, being the amount of one month's pay as captain in the ſervice of the ſaid honourable united Eaſt India Company, have contracted and agreed, and by theſe preſents do covenant, contract, and agree, with the ſaid preſident and council of Fort William, for and on the behalf of the ſaid united Eaſt India Company, to ſerve them in a military capacity for the ſpace of three years, to be computed from the day of the date hereof; and alſo, that I will not then, or at any other time, quit the ſaid ſervice without giving twelve months previous notice, in writing, of ſuch my intentions, to the preſident and council of Fort William aforeſaid, for the time being, and obtaining their permiſſion for that purpoſe.

In

In witneſs whereof I have hereunto ſet my hand and ſeal, at Calcutta in Bengal aforeſaid, this day of in the year of our Lord

A. B.

Signed, ſealed, and delivered, at Calcutta aforeſaid, where no ſtamped paper is to be had, in the preſence of

C. D.
E. F.

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